C++ in GitHub Codespaces – Student Quick Guide

No installation required · Browser-based IDE

Essential Keyboard Shortcuts

Action	Windows / Linux	Mac
Open Terminal	Ctrl + `	Cmd + `
Save File	Ctrl + S	Cmd + S
New File	Ctrl + N	Cmd + N
Comment / Uncomment	Ctrl + /	Cmd + /
Command Palette	Ctrl + Shift + P	Cmd + Shift + P

Compile & Run (Recommended Method)

Install the Code Runner extension once inside Codespaces.

1 Open Extensions panel

2 Search for: Code Runner (by Jun Han)

3 Click Install

Run Shortcuts (After Installing Code Runner)

Action	Shortcut
Run current C++ file	Ctrl + Alt + N
Stop program	Ctrl + Alt + M

Debugging Shortcuts (Optional)

Action	Key
Start Debugging	F5
Step Over	F10
Step Into	F11
Toggle Breakpoint	F9

Instructor Recommendation

For beginner C++ courses, students should use Code Runner and the single shortcut Ctrl + Alt + N to compile and run programs. This avoids terminal errors and simplifies learning.