

What You Need to Do Before the Workshop

Following these instructions will help ensure that you get the most out of the workshop.

If you're having any issues following these instructions, please [submit a consultation using this form](#) at least three business days prior to the workshop.

Note: This document was last updated on 12/6/24. The information may have changed since then.

First Thing to Do: Get Access to GitHub Copilot

To use GitHub Copilot, you first need to get access to it. Please follow the instructions below to get access to GitHub Copilot.

Plan A: GitHub Education

Note: ***This is the option that applies to students, post-docs, and faculty.***

For individuals, GitHub Copilot typically costs \$10 /month (or \$100 /year). However, GitHub Education provides free licenses to students and teachers (including faculty and people in a research role such as post-docs and research staff).

- Students. To get access to GitHub Education as a student, you need to be currently enrolled, have a verifiable school-issued email address or upload documents that prove your current student status, have a GitHub personal account, and be at least 13 years old. You can find more details on [how to get access to GitHub Education as a student on this website](#).
- Teachers. To get access to GitHub Education as a teacher you need to be an educator, faculty member, or researcher; have a verifiable school-issued email address; upload documents that prove your school affiliation; and have a personal account on GitHub. You can find more details on [how to get access to GitHub Education as a teacher on this website](#).

Once you are a verified student or teacher on GitHub Education, [you can access GitHub Copilot for free following the instructions on this website](#). Please note that the verification may take some time.

Plan B: Free Trial

Note: ***This is the backup to plan A.***

For the workshop you may want to have access to GitHub Copilot faster than your verification for GitHub Education takes place. In that case, you can use a one-time, 30-day free trial. You can [find more information about how to get access to the free trial on this website](#).

Plan C: GitHub Enterprise

Note: ***This is a long-term option mostly for staff in administrative positions.***

Northwestern has a GitHub Enterprise account. To get access to GitHub Copilot through Northwestern's account, you need to be part of a GitHub organization that is part of Northwestern's enterprise account. Either [create an organization and request that it be added to the Northwestern enterprise or request a new GitHub organization be created here](#).

Once your GitHub organization is part of the Northwestern enterprise, an organization owner can request that GitHub copilot be enabled for the organization by submitting an IT help ticket to the Cloud Operations team.

Once GitHub Copilot is enabled for your organization, the GitHub organization owner can choose which members of the organization can access Copilot. It will indicate a monthly charge of \$19 per user, but Northwestern is not currently actually billed for this cost. *This may change in the future.*

GitHub organization members can be managed through GitHub directly, or the organization can be configured to use Northwestern SSO (which is preferred for organizations of staff supporting university operations). More [details on configuring Northwestern SSO are available on this website](#).

Second Thing to Do: Set Up GitHub Copilot in VS Code and/or RStudio

Once you have access to GitHub Copilot, you need to set it up in your preferred integrated development environment (IDE). During the workshop we will discuss VS Code and RStudio. Please follow the instructions below to set up GitHub Copilot in either of those two IDE.

VS Code

To set up GitHub Copilot in VS Code, you can [follow the instructions on this website](#).

RStudio

To set up GitHub Copilot in RStudio, you can [follow the instructions on this website](#).

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