# **Download and Install VS Code**

Visual Studio Code (VS Code) is a code editor that will enable you to work with Python during these workshops. With VS Code, you will be able to read and interact with the python scripts we have developed for you, create and run your own python scripts, and to save your work. The advantage of VS Code over other code editors is that it is easy to use and comes with an extensive library of tools that will you help you going forward in your python/data science journey.

To download VS code, go to the URL: <https://code.visualstudio.com/>

Click the download button on either the left hand of the screen or at the top right hand corner.

If you select the button on the left hand of the screen, make sure the default option is tailored to your operating system. If it is not, click the downwards arrow and select the appropriate operating system. Make sure to download the stable build and not the insiders build.

Graphical user interface, text

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If you select the button on the top right, you will be then taken to a page, where you will be asked to select a download option. Again, make sure to click the one relevant for your operating system. Ignore any of the options under the big blue download buttons.

Timeline

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Next you should see a “Getting Started” page[[1]](#footnote-1). A VS set up file, ***VSCodeUserSetup-x64-1.64.0.exe*** (if you are on windows), will begin downloading. If it does not begin downloading, click the “direct download link” at the top of the page. If your computer instead downloads a file named, ***VSCode-darwin-universal***, then give either one of us a shout.

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Open the VSCodeUserSetup page and accept the licence agreement. Then click next.

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Choose a relevant location to install VS studio code. Again as with Anaconda, you don’t need to change this, but make a note of where it is (maybe make a sticky note or something that contains the folder address). It’ll be something like ‘C:\Users\Name\AppData\Local\Programs\Microsoft VS Code’ if you’re on a windows device. Again, don’t change it, just note where it is.

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You will then be asked to create a program shortcut in Start Menu Folder. It should say Visual Studio Code. If it does, click Next here.

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The next page will ask you about additional task that you want performed during the installation. Unless your desktop is so overloaded that it causes you a deep existential panic as you stare into the jaws of chaos every time you are brought face to face with it, then I recommend clicking the box next to the “Create a desktop icon”. For the others, you can stick with the default options. Then click “Next”.

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On the next page, click install.

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The installation will take a few seconds to complete. Once it has, then boom, you have installed VS Code! For the final page, make sure the Launch Visual Studio code box is ticked and then click finish.

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You will then be brought to the beautiful home page of VS code. The first thing it will ask you to do is select a theme. Pick the one that suits you best for now. You can always change it later. Then click “Mark Done” at the bottom of the screen.

A screenshot of a computer

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You are now ready to start using VS Code. We will show you in this workshop how we can integrate VS code with Python and Anaconda.

1. The VS code website has a lot of user information on how to navigate VS code, so it is worth checking out on your own time. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)