Contents

Quick Start Guide - Windows PC

Get Started in 30 Minutes

This quick guide gets you from zero to running your first financial model in Python on Windows.

Step 1: Install VS Code (5 minutes)

1. Go to https://code.visualstudio.com/
2. Click Download for Windows
3. Run the installer
4. ☐ Check "Add to PATH"
5. ☐ Check "Create a desktop icon"
6. Click Install

Step 2: Install Python (5 minutes)

1. Go to https://www.python.org/downloads/
2. Click Download Python 3.11 (or latest version)
3. Run the installer
4. ☐ CRITICAL: Check "Add Python to PATH"
5. ☐ Check "Install pip"
6. Click Install Now

Test it: - Open VS Code - Press `Ctrl+``` (control + backtick) to open terminal – Type:python –version– `You should see:`Python 3.11.x‘

Step 3: Install Extensions (3 minutes)

In VS Code: 1. Click Extensions icon (or press `Ctrl+Shift+X`) 2. Search and install these: - Python (by Microsoft) - Jupyter (by Microsoft) - Pylance (by Microsoft)

Step 4: Create Your Project (5 minutes)

In VS Code terminal ('Ctrl+"):

```
# Create and navigate to project folder
mkdir financial-modeling
cd financial-modeling

# Create virtual environment
python -m venv venv

# Activate it
venv\Scripts\activate

# You should see (venv) at the start of your line
```

PowerShell users: If you get an error, run:

```
Set-ExecutionPolicy -ExecutionPolicy RemoteSigned -Scope CurrentUser
```

Step 5: Install Libraries (5 minutes)

With your virtual environment activated:

```
pip install numpy pandas matplotlib yfinance jupyter openpyxl
```

This installs everything you need for financial modeling.

Step 6: Test Everything (5 minutes)

Create a new file: `test.py`

Copy and paste this code:

```python
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd

# Simple investment calculator
def future_value(present_value, rate, years):
    return present_value * (1 + rate) ** years

# Example: $10,000 at 8% for 5 years
initial = 10000
rate = 0.08
years = 5

result = future_value(initial, rate, years)

print(f"Investment: ${initial:,.2f}")
print(f"Annual Return: {rate:.1%}")
print(f"Years: {years}")
```

```python
print(f"Future Value: ${result:,.2f}")
print(f"Profit: ${result - initial:,.2f}")
```

Run it: - Click the ▶ play button (top right) - Or press `Ctrl+F5`

You should see:

```
Investment: $10,000.00
Annual Return: 8.0%
Years: 5
Future Value: $14,693.28
Profit: $4,693.28
```

☐ You're Ready!

If you see the output above, you're all set! You just: - Installed a professional development environment - Set up Python for financial analysis - Ran your first financial calculation

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Next Steps

1. Start the course: Open `Module_01_Setup/01_Getting_Started.md`
2. Learn Python basics: Continue to `Module_02_Python_Fundamentals/`
3. Build real models: Module 4 (DCF) and Module 5 (LBO)

Common Issues

"python is not recognized"

- Python not in PATH
- Reinstall Python and check "Add to PATH"
- Restart VS Code

Virtual environment won't activate

- Make sure you're in the right folder
- Use: `venv\Scripts\activate` (Command Prompt)
- Or: `.\venv\Scripts\Activate.ps1` (PowerShell)
- PowerShell: May need to change execution policy

Import errors

- Make sure virtual environment is activated (you see `(venv)`)
- Reinstall packages: `pip install numpy pandas matplotlib`

Extension not working

- Reload VS Code: `Ctrl+Shift+P` → "Reload Window"
- Restart VS Code completely
- Check for updates

Keyboard Shortcuts to Remember

Shortcut	Action
``Ctrl+`` `` | `Open terminal` | |**Ctrl+P**| `Quick file open` | |**Ctrl+Shift+P**| `Command palette` | |**Ctrl+/**| `Comment code` | |**F5**| `Run with debugger` | |**Ctrl+F5**'`	Run without debugger

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Tips for Success

1. Type code, don't copy-paste - builds muscle memory
2. Run code frequently - see results immediately
3. Experiment - change numbers, see what happens
4. Use comments - explain your code with #
5. Save often - `Ctrl+S`

Getting Help

- Within course: Check `solutions.py` files in each module
- Python errors: Read the error message carefully
- Google: "Python [your question]" - Stack Overflow is your friend
- VS Code: `Ctrl+Shift+P` → search for commands

Estimated Total Time: 30 minutes Difficulty: Beginner-friendly

Ready to become a Python-powered financial modeler? Let's go! □

→ Start with: `Module_01_Setup/01_Getting_Started.md`