

NOTE: there are references to PyCharm Community throughout the course and within these instructions, which is/was a free version of PyCharm. Since 2025, PyCharm has offered a unified product that combines the free and professional versions. For the purposes of this course, the differences are negligible. Any references to the Community version in the instructions will also apply to the new version.

CONFIGURING PYCHARM TO WORK WITH PYTHON 3.13

By default, PyCharm should detect the Python installations you have on your computer and should default to the Python 3.13 environment you installed. Sometimes, though, you may need to configure PyCharm so that it is using the Python 3.13 interpreter that you installed.

In this document, we'll check what version of Python is being used by PyCharm and configure it if needed.

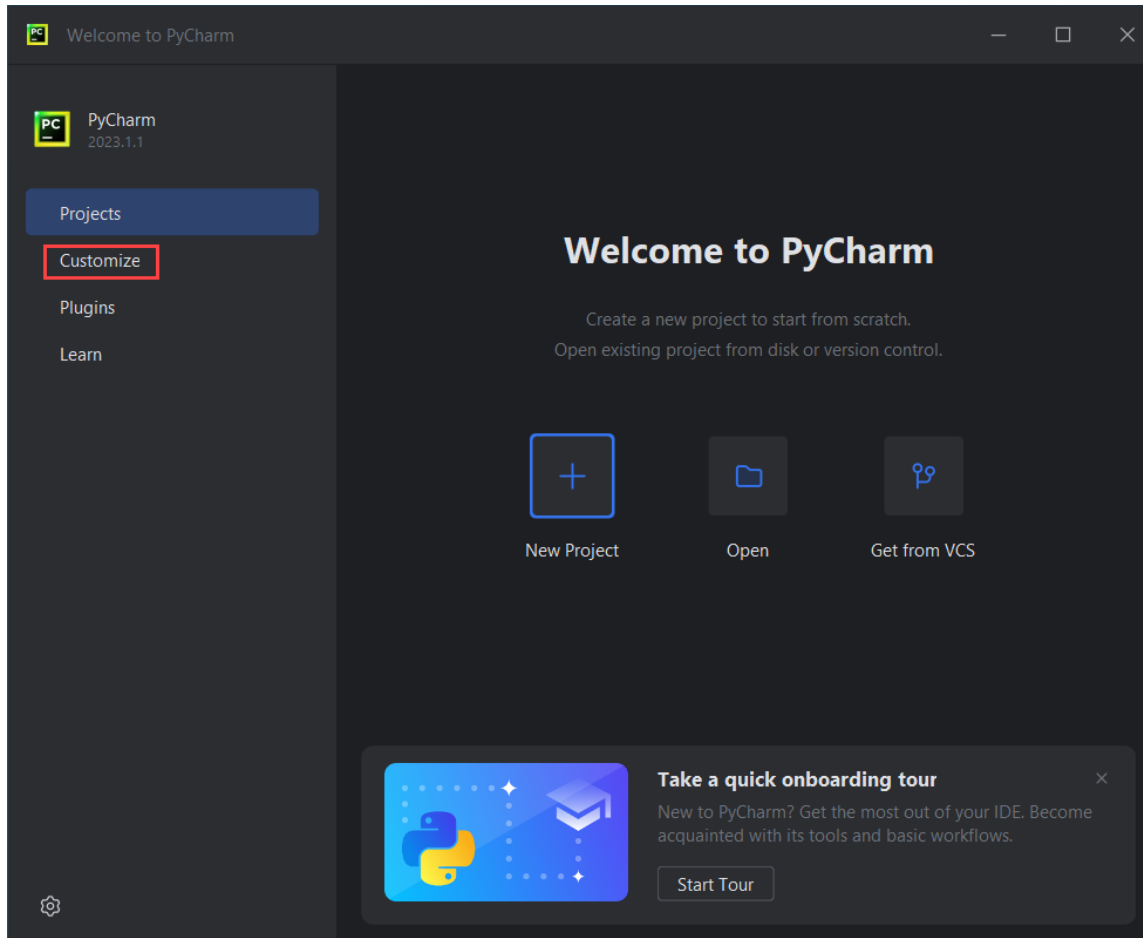
NOTE: The screenshots in this document show Python 3.12 instead of 3.13. The steps are the same for configuring Python 3.13 to work with PyCharm.

STEP 1

Start PyCharm by either double-clicking the desktop icon in Windows or by choosing PyCharm from the Applications folder in the MacOS Dock.

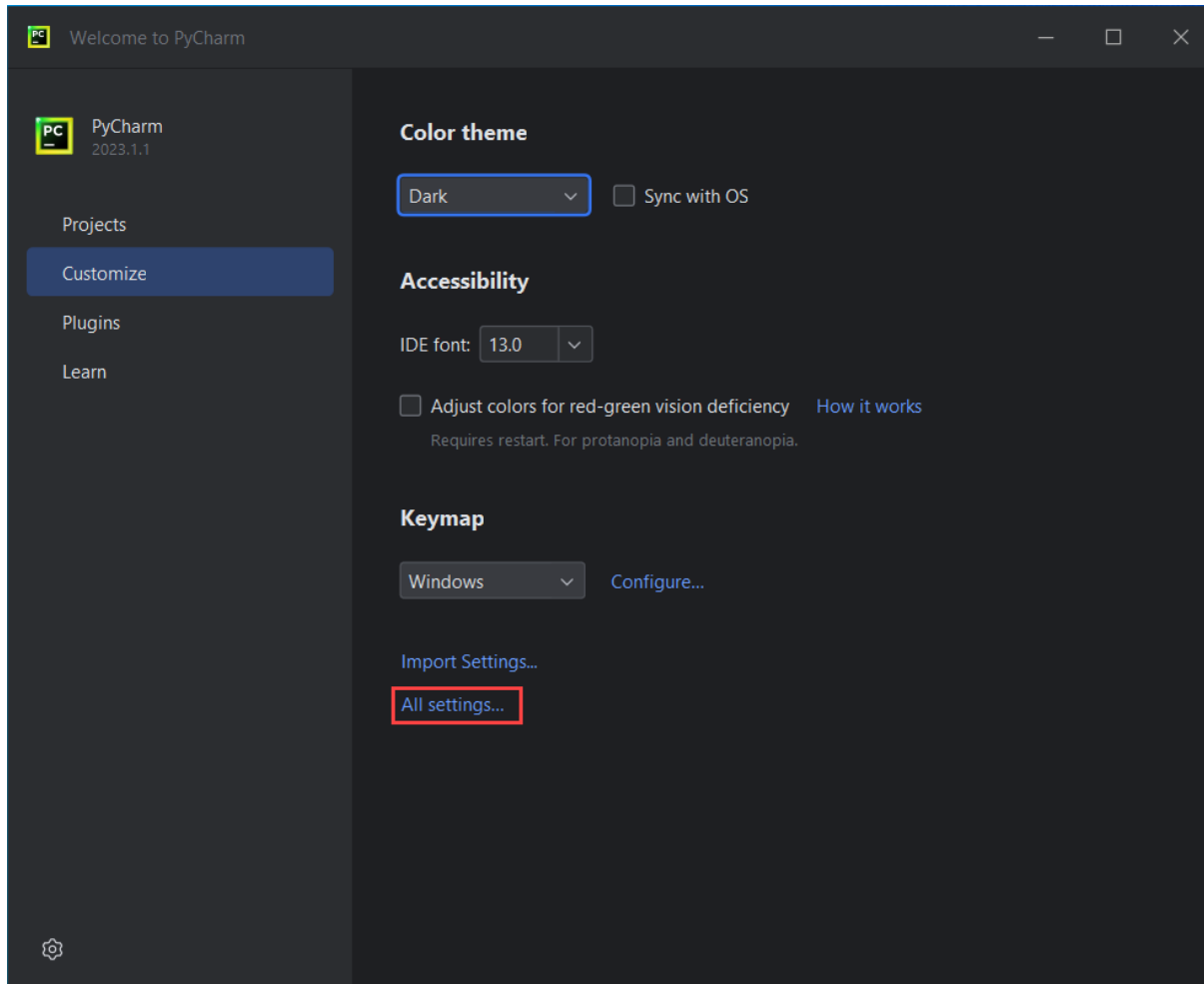
STEP 2

PyCharm shows you a Welcome screen and you are given options to create a new project, open an existing project, or work with a Version Control System. For now, we'll bypass these choices and choose Customize on the left navigation menu.



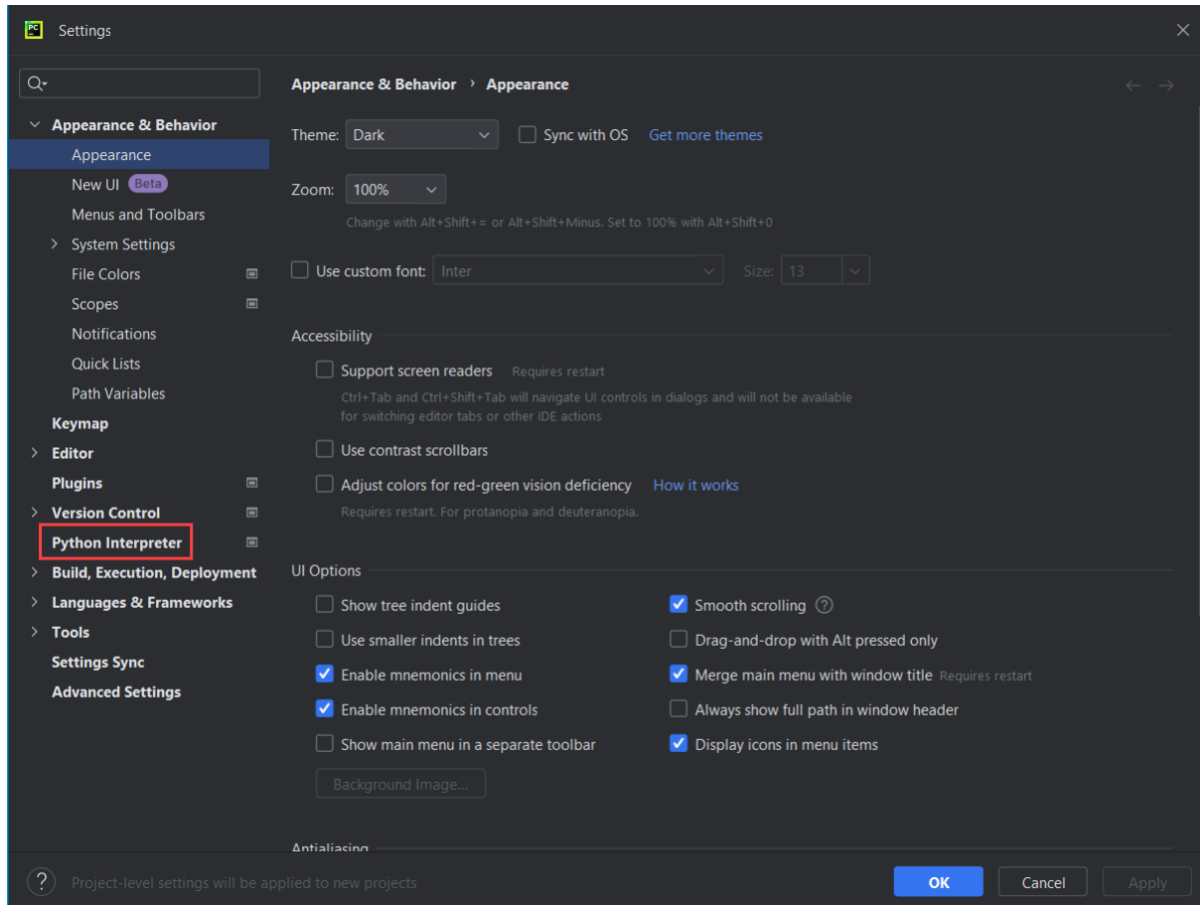
STEP 3

From the Customize panel, choose All Settings.



STEP 4

From the All settings panel, choose Python Interpreter.

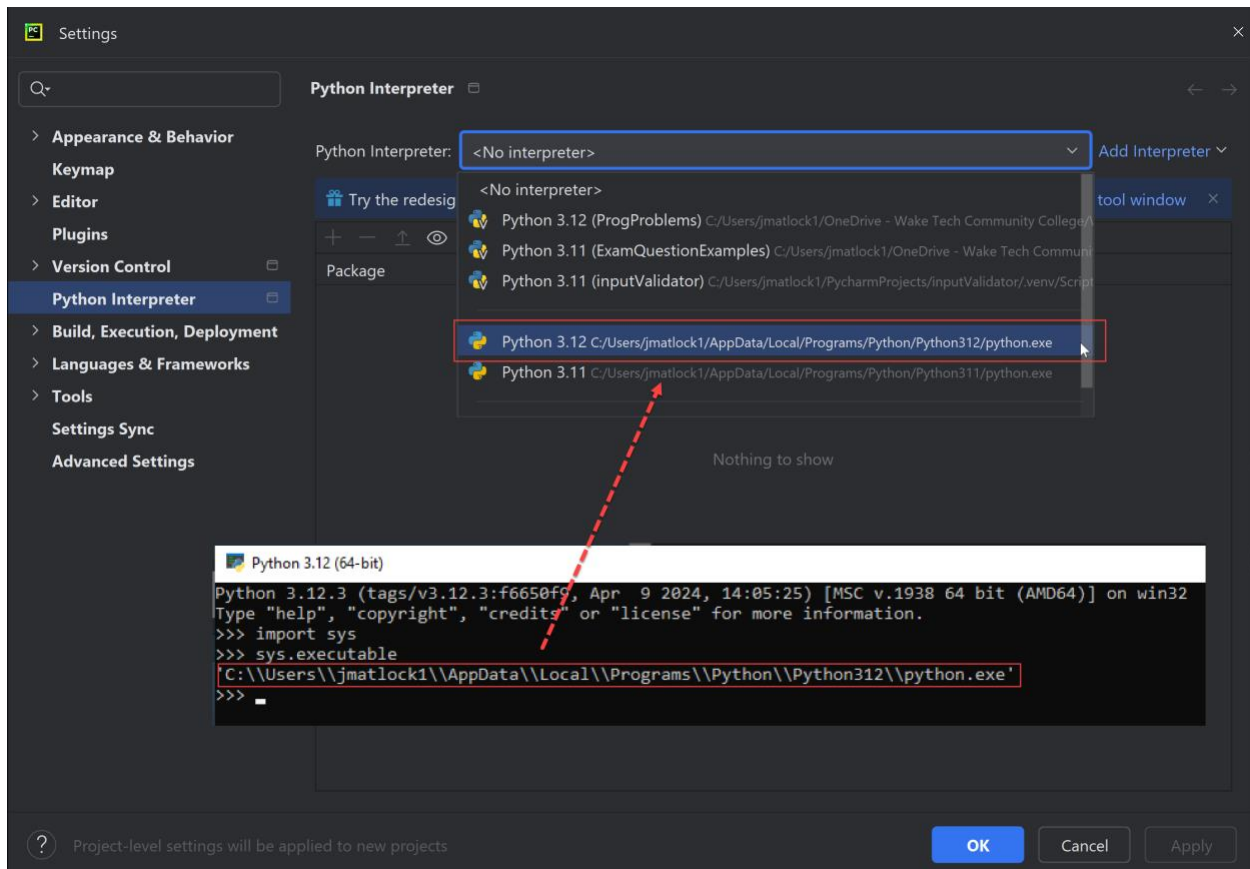


STEP 5

In this panel you choose the Python interpreter to use with your Python projects.

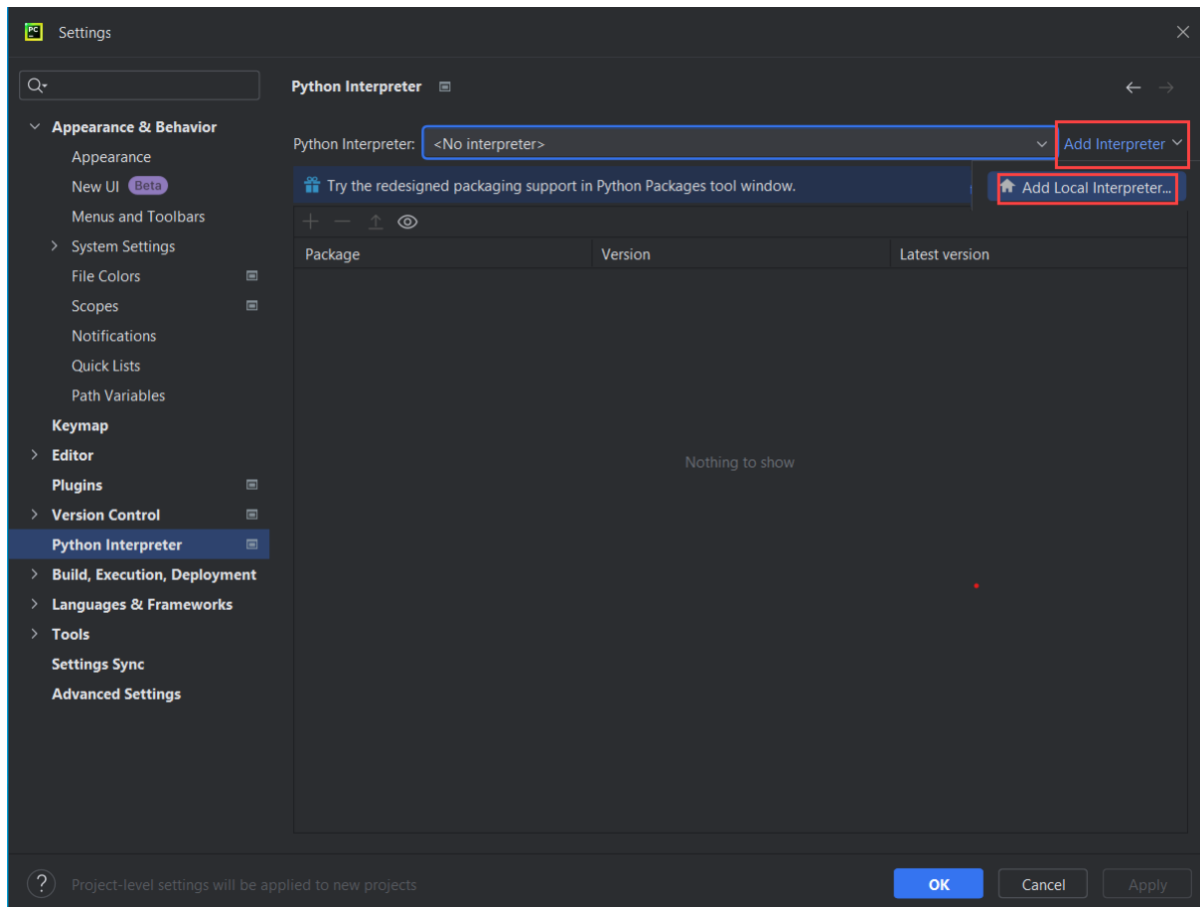
If the field next to **Python Interpreter** already has Python 3.13 showing, there is nothing else you need to do.

If the field says <No interpreter> or something other than Python 3.13, check the dropdown next to Python Interpreter and see if an executable for Python 3.13 is listed. If it is, you can choose that item and click OK. If there are more than one Python 3.13 entries, choose the one in the list that is at the same path you saw when you typed "sys.executable" in the Python interpreter when you installed Python.



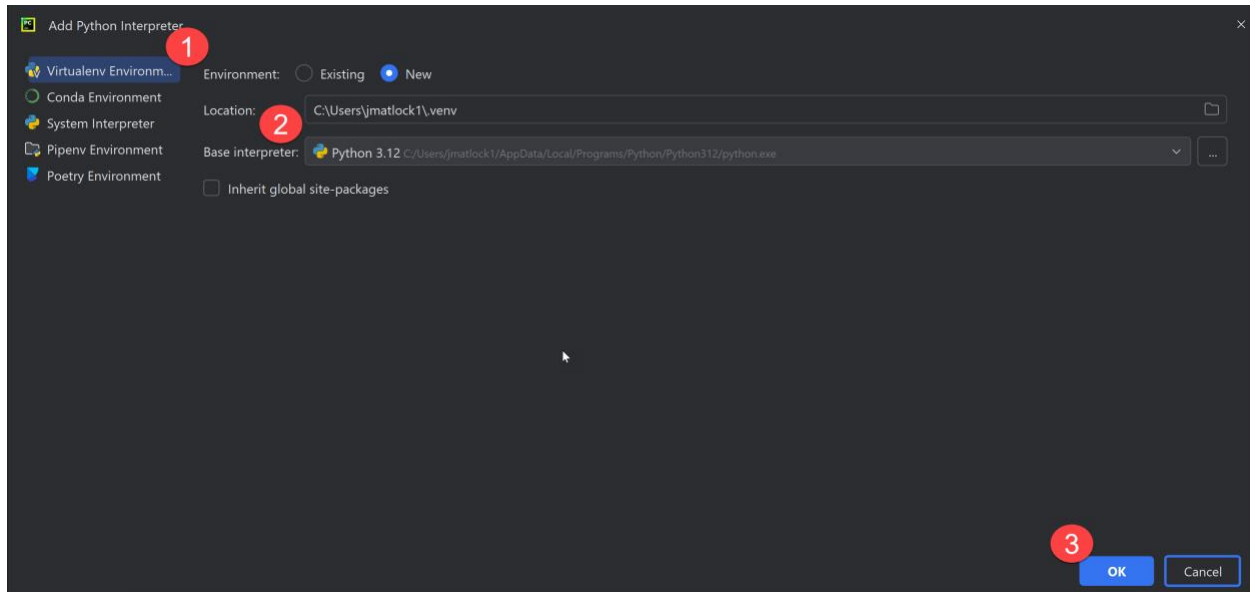
After you select the correct interpreter, click OK. There is nothing else you need to do.

If there is no selection on this panel for Python 3.13, choose “Add Interpreter” and then “Add Local Interpreter” on the upper right of the dialog.

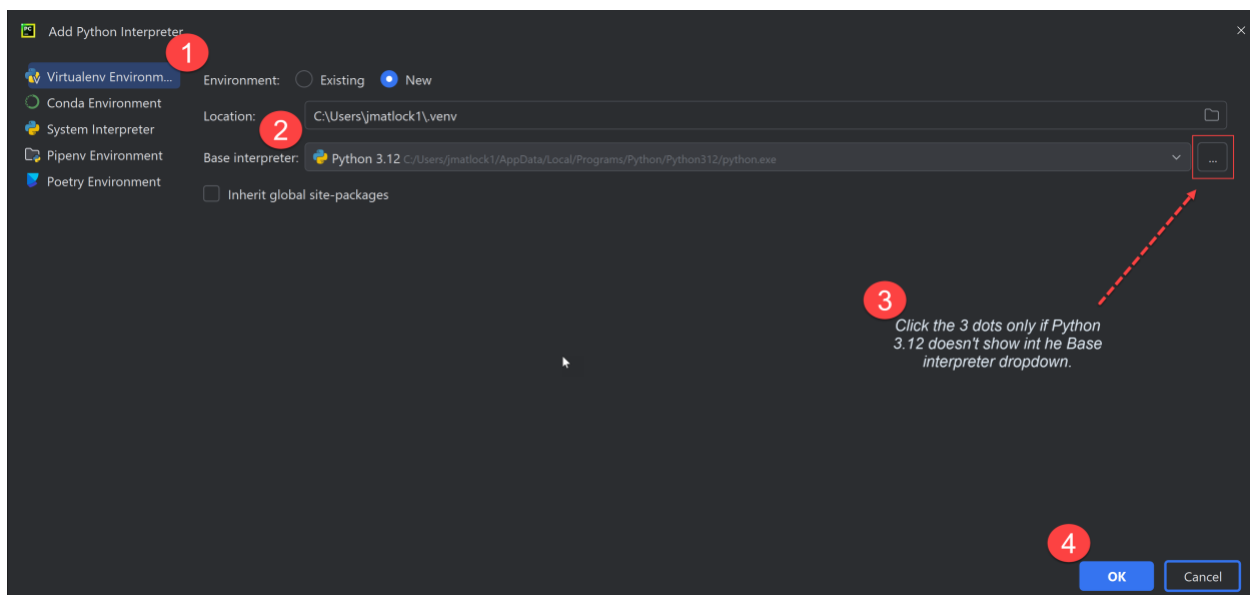


STEP 6

On this Add Python Interpreter dialog, choose Virtualenv Environment in the left hand navigation. If the correct Python 3.13 interpreter shows in the text field next to Base interpreter, just click OK. (It's very likely that will be the case.)



If the Python 3.13 interpreter does not show in the text field, choose the 3 dots next to that field and from the file dialog, choose the file path that you discovered when you ran the Python interpreter and queried it with "sys.executable". Once you come back to the Add Python Interpreter screen, click OK.



WHEW! YOU SHOULD BE READY TO GO!

That should be it. You've accomplished a lot:

- The latest Python 3.13 version is installed on your computer.
- PyCharm is installed on your computer.
- PyCharm is configured to use the latest Python 3.13 version you need for class success.