

# Claude Code Setup Guide

Pre-Workshop Preparation for Agentic Coding Training

Workshop Edition 2026

## Welcome

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This guide will help you prepare your development environment before the workshop. Please complete these steps **at least 24 hours before** the workshop date to ensure a smooth experience.

### What is Claude Code?

Claude Code is Anthropic's official CLI tool for agentic coding. It allows Claude to read, write, and execute code autonomously within your terminal, enabling powerful AI-assisted development workflows.

## Prerequisites

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Before installing Claude Code, ensure you have:

- **Node.js 18+** - Check with `node --version`
- **npm or yarn** - Package manager for installation
- **Git** - Version control (for workshop exercises)
- **A code editor** - VS Code recommended (with Claude extension)
- **Terminal access** - macOS Terminal, iTerm2, Windows Terminal, or similar

# Installation Steps

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## 1 Install Claude Code globally

Open your terminal and run:

```
npm install -g @anthropic-ai/claude-code
```

## 2 Verify installation

Check that Claude Code is installed correctly:

```
claude --version
```

You should see the version number (e.g., `1.0.x`).

## 3 Authenticate with Anthropic

Run Claude Code for the first time to authenticate:

```
claude
```

Follow the prompts to log in with your Anthropic account. If your company has provided API credentials, use those instead.

## 4 Test with a simple command

Navigate to any project directory and test:

```
# Navigate to a test project cd ~/projects/test-project # Start Claude Code  
claude # Try a simple request > What files are in this directory?
```

# Essential Commands

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Here are the key commands you'll use during the workshop:

Command	Description
<code>claude</code>	Start interactive mode in current directory
<code>claude "prompt"</code>	Run a single command and exit
<code>claude --help</code>	Show all available options
<code>/help</code>	Get help within interactive mode
<code>/clear</code>	Clear conversation history
<code>/compact</code>	Summarize and compress context
<code>Ctrl+C</code>	Cancel current operation
<code>exit</code> or <code>Ctrl+D</code>	Exit Claude Code

# Project Configuration

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Claude Code can be configured per-project using a `CLAUDE.md` file in your project root:

```
# CLAUDE.md - Project instructions for Claude Code ## Project Overview This is a Node.js API built with Express and TypeScript. ## Key Commands - `npm run dev` - Start development server - `npm test` - Run tests - `npm run build` - Build for production ## Architecture - `src/routes` - API endpoints - `src/services` - Business logic - `src/models` - Database models ## Coding Standards - Use TypeScript strict mode - All functions must have JSDoc comments - Follow REST naming conventions
```

### Pro Tip

A well-crafted `CLAUDE.md` file dramatically improves Claude's understanding of your codebase. We'll create these together during the workshop.

## Security Best Practices

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Before using Claude Code with sensitive codebases:

### What Claude Code CAN access:

- Files in your current working directory and subdirectories
- Read file contents when you approve
- Execute terminal commands when you approve
- Make edits to files when you approve

### Security recommendations:

- **Never commit API keys** - Use environment variables and `.env` files
- **Add sensitive files to .gitignore** - Prevents accidental exposure
- **Review before approving** - Always check proposed changes
- **Use permission modes** - Start with "ask" mode for sensitive projects

### Enterprise Note

If your organisation has specific data handling policies, ensure you understand what can and cannot be shared with AI tools. We'll cover enterprise security configurations during the workshop.

# Workshop Exercises Setup

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Clone the workshop repository to have the exercise files ready:

```
# Clone workshop materials git clone https://github.com/gis-analytics/claude-code-workshop.git # Navigate to the directory cd claude-code-workshop # Install dependencies npm install # Verify setup npm test
```

The repository contains:

- `/exercises` - Hands-on coding challenges
- `/examples` - Reference implementations
- `/templates` - CLAUDE.md templates for different project types

## Troubleshooting

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### Installation issues

Permission denied on npm install:

```
# Fix npm permissions (macOS/Linux) sudo chown -R $(whoami) ~/.npm npm install -g @anthropic-ai/claude-code
```

### Authentication issues

Login not working:

- Ensure you have an active Anthropic account
- Check your internet connection
- Try logging out and back in: `claude logout && claude`

### Performance issues

Slow responses in large codebases:

- Use `.claudeignore` to exclude large directories (node\_modules, build artifacts)
- Run from a subdirectory when possible
- Use `/compact` to reduce context size

## Checklist

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Before the workshop, confirm you have completed:

- Node.js 18+ installed
- Claude Code installed globally
- Successfully authenticated
- Tested basic commands
- Cloned workshop repository
- VS Code (or preferred editor) ready

## Need Help?

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If you encounter any issues during setup:

- **Email:** [info@gisanalytics.com](mailto:info@gisanalytics.com)
- **Phone:** +44 7940 839655

We're happy to help you get set up before the workshop!

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