

How to upgrade to or install Windows 11

Before you start the installation, make sure you have the following:

- A stable internet connection (provider fees may apply)
- Sufficient disk space available on your PC for the download
- An **empty** USB stick of at least **8 GB**. The content on the medium will be erased

Then check the following on the PC on which you want to install Windows 11:

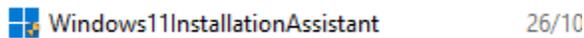
- Do you have a **64-bit** or **32-bit** processor (CPU)? A 32-bit version is no longer supported by Windows 11 as it is obsolete.
If you want to check what version you currently have, go to your **Settings** > System > Info, or to **Control Panel** > System and Security > System. In both cases, next to 'System type' you will see whether you have the 64-bit or 32-bit version.
- **Check whether your PC meets the [minimum system requirements](#) of Windows 11:**
 - CPU: 1 GHZ or faster
 - RAM: 4 GB
 - Storage: 64 GB or more
 - Firmware: UEFI Secure Boot possible
 - TPM: Trusted Platform Module (TPM) version 2.0
 - Graphics: Support for DirectX 12 or later versions with WDDM 2.0 driver
- **Language in Windows**
If you want to update your PC instead of doing a clean install, you will need to choose the same language that your current Windows version is installed in. To check your current language settings, go to **Settings** > Time and Language > Language. Here you can see your current display language
- **Windows version**
You must also choose the same Windows version to make sure that your current licence remains valid. Examples of Windows versions are Home, Pro, Edu, Enterprise, etc. If you want to check which version you currently have, go to **Settings** > System > Info (bottom left). You will see the **edition** under **Windows Specifications**

1. Upgrade Windows 10 to Windows 11

Before installing Windows 10, we recommend that you save all your work and make a backup of your PC.

Your files will not be lost during the upgrade using the Windows 11 installation wizard.

Step 1: Open the .exe file by double-clicking on it.



Step 2: If you get this screen, you should download the PC Health Check app by clicking on the link.



Use the PC Health Check app to check compatibility

To see if your device meets the system requirements to run Windows 11, use the PC Health Check app then come back here and select [Refresh](#). [Get PC Health Check app](#)

Refresh

Exit

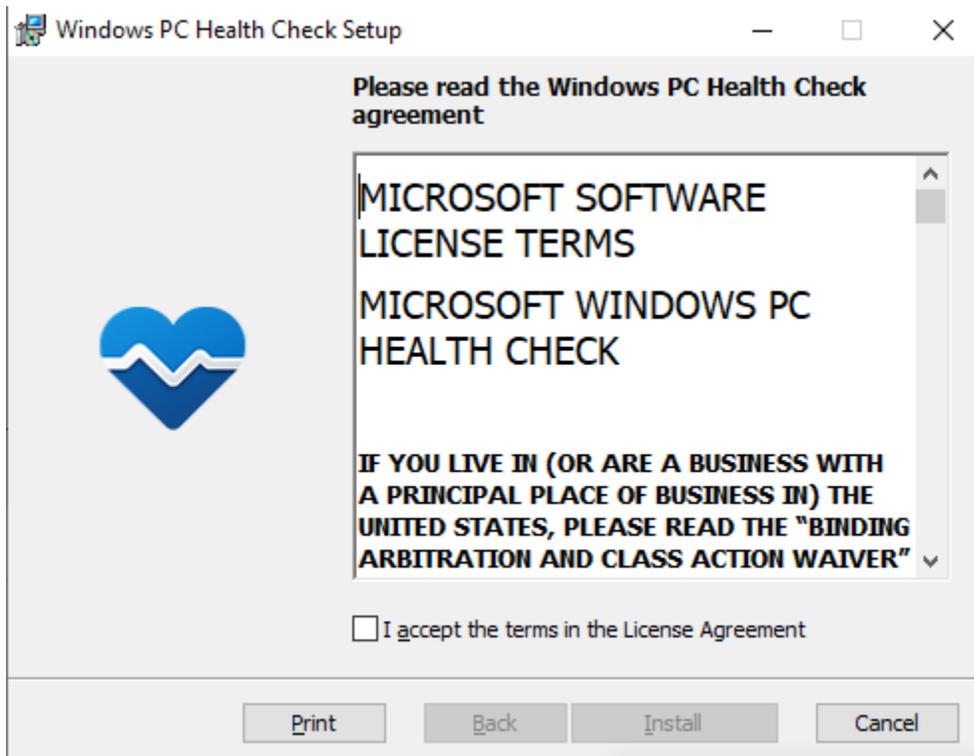


Check for compatibility

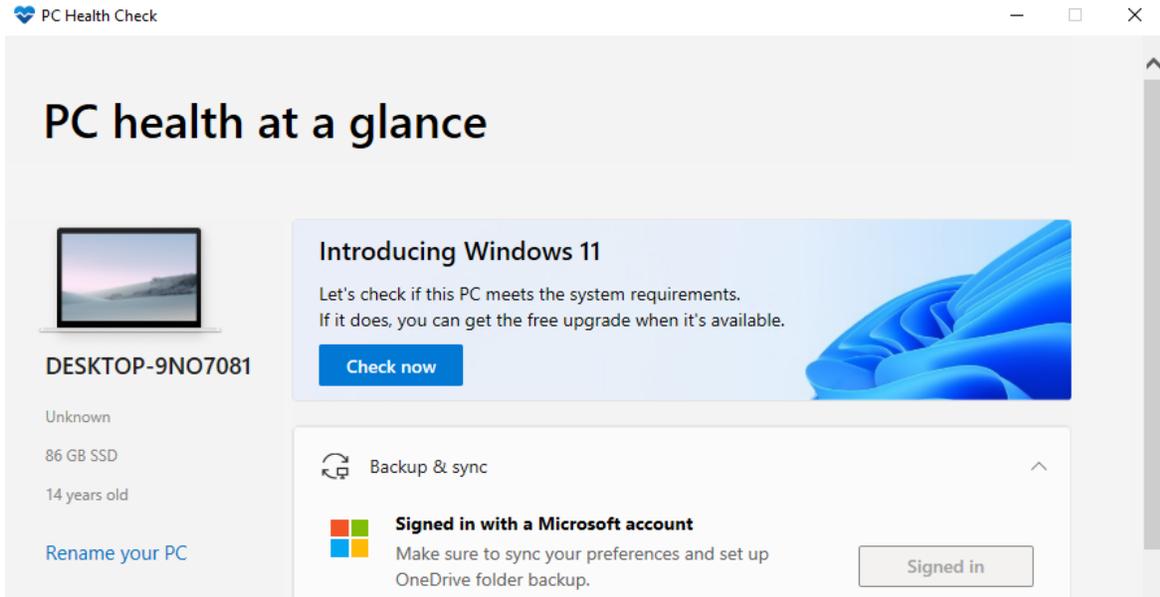
Use the PC Health Check app² to see if your PC can run Windows 11.

[DOWNLOAD PC HEALTH CHECK APP >](#) [SEE MINIMUM SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS >](#)

Step 3: Accept the Licence Agreement and click on Install. Then click on Finish.

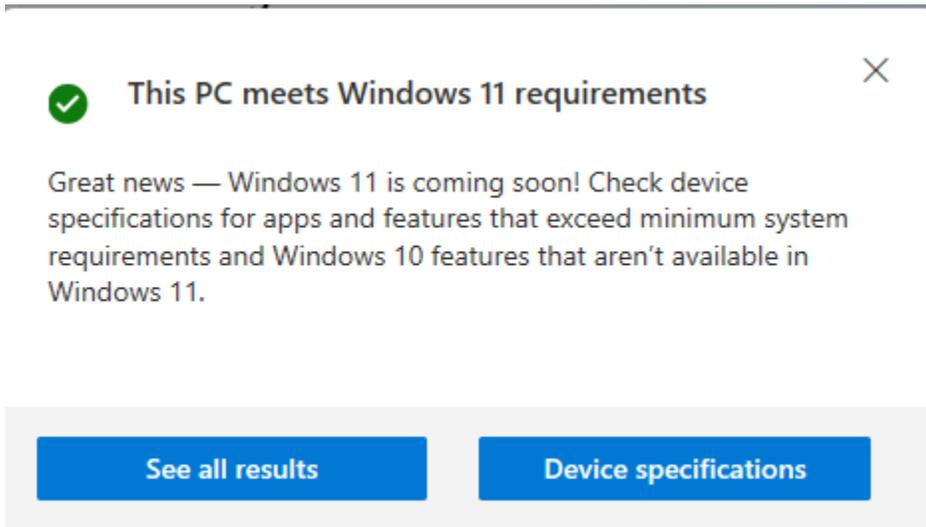


Step 4: Click on 'Check now'.



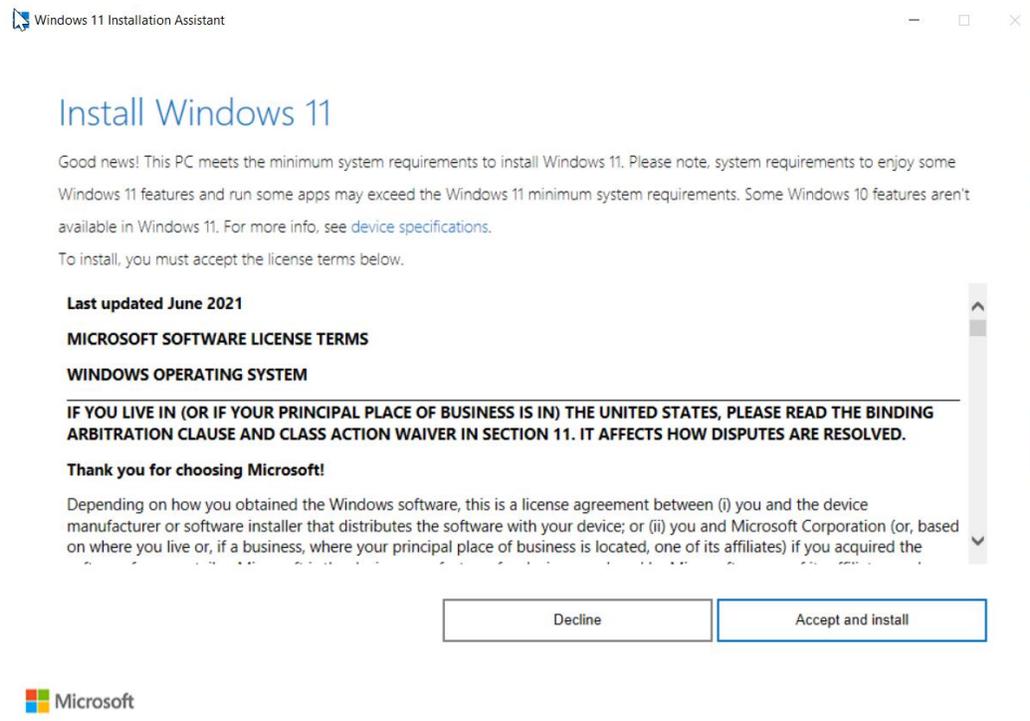
The screenshot shows the 'PC Health Check' application window. The title bar reads 'PC Health Check'. The main heading is 'PC health at a glance'. On the left, there is a laptop icon and the device name 'DESKTOP-9NO7081'. Below the name, it says 'Unknown', '86 GB SSD', and '14 years old'. There is a link 'Rename your PC'. The main content area has a blue banner for 'Introducing Windows 11' with the text 'Let's check if this PC meets the system requirements. If it does, you can get the free upgrade when it's available.' and a 'Check now' button. Below this is a 'Backup & sync' section with a refresh icon and a 'Signed in with a Microsoft account' section with a 'Signed in' button.

If your computer doesn't meet the requirements for Windows 11, you can't upgrade your computer just yet.

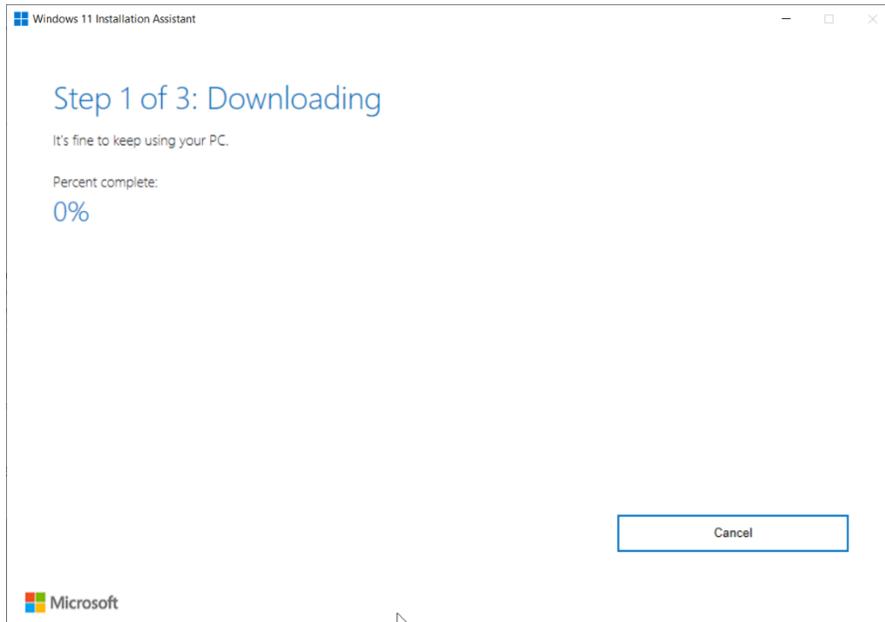


The screenshot shows a notification dialog box with a green checkmark icon. The title is 'This PC meets Windows 11 requirements'. The text reads: 'Great news — Windows 11 is coming soon! Check device specifications for apps and features that exceed minimum system requirements and Windows 10 features that aren't available in Windows 11.' At the bottom, there are two blue buttons: 'See all results' and 'Device specifications'.

Step 5: Go back to the Installation Assistant and click on 'Accept and install' to start the download and installation.



Step 6: The installation will start. This may take several hours, depending on the speed of your computer.



When the installation is complete, your computer will reboot and Windows 11 will be installed.

2. Creating the installation medium

If you want to carry out a new installation of Windows 11, create a new installation file using the Windows Media Creation tool. This allows you to install Windows 11 on any new device.

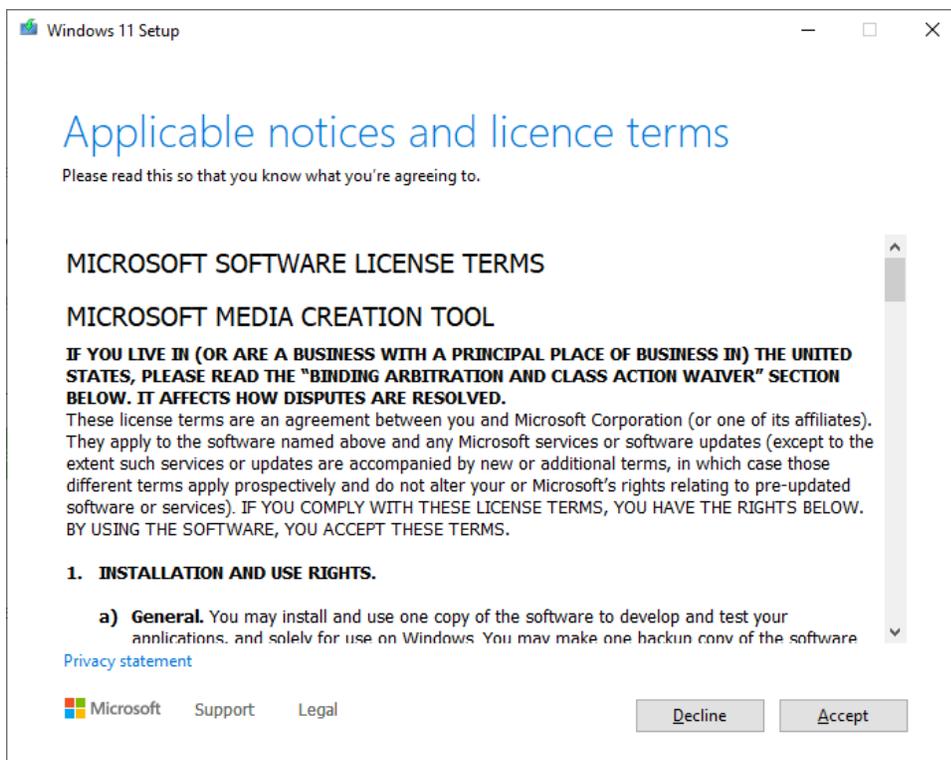
Step 1: Go to Windows 11 on Academic Software. Go to versions and select 'Windows Media Creation Tool. Then click on the button 'Download Media Creation Tool'.

Step 2: Open the .exe file in your download folder.

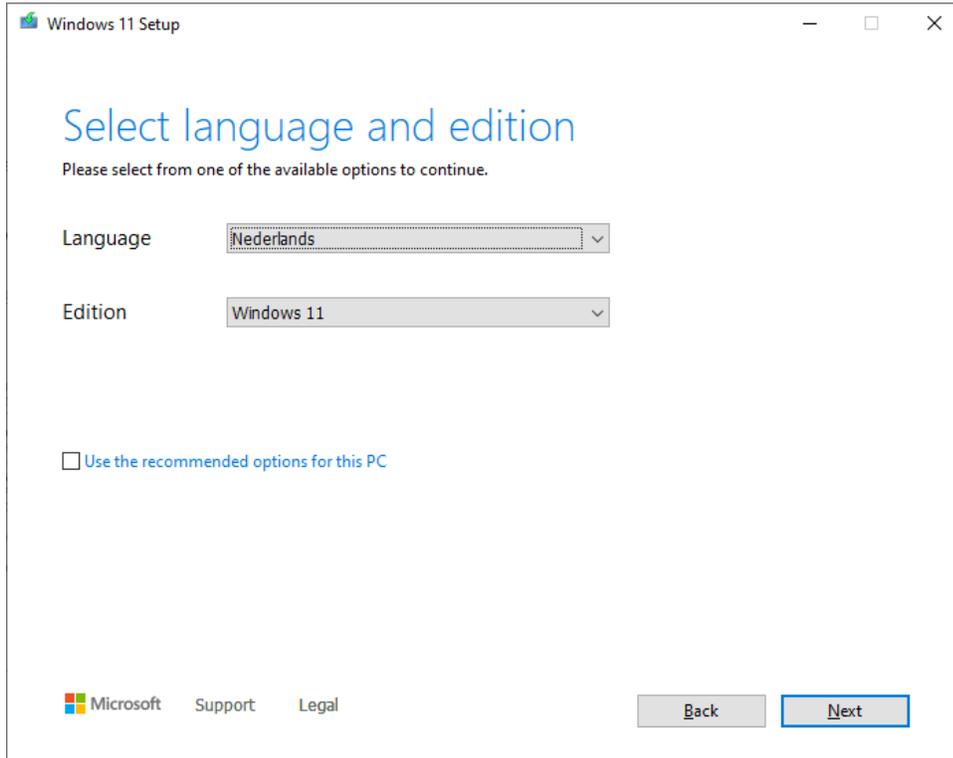
 MediaCreationToolW11.exe

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Step 3: Accept the Licence Agreement.



Step 4: Select the desired language and click on Next.



Step 5: Choose the following medium:

- **USB flash drive:** Connect an empty USB stick of at least 8 GB. All content on the USB flash drive will be **erased**

Step 6: Once the installation medium has been created, follow the steps below to use it.

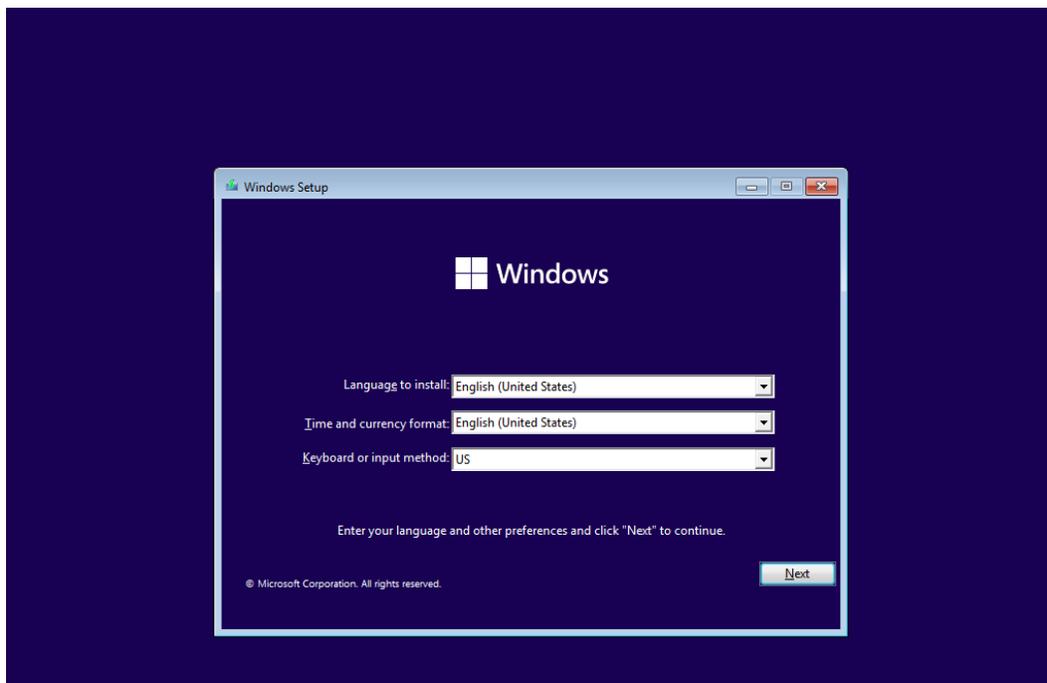
3. Installing Windows 11 using the installation medium

Step 1: Connect your USB stick on which you want to install Windows 11.

Step 2: Reboot your PC and start Windows from the boot device (USB stick) you created. To choose your boot device, you will need to press a key when your PC (re)boots.

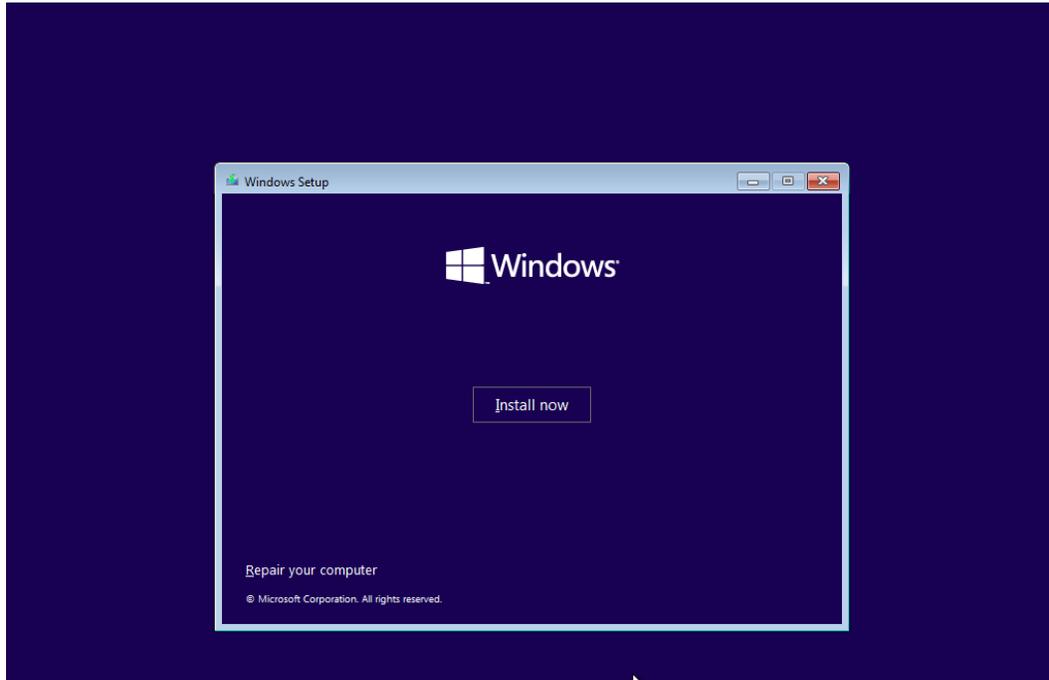
At the bottom, you may see '**Boot menu**' with the key you need to press next to it. If 'Boot menu' is not an option, you will have to go to your BIOS or UEFI settings, or change the boot order there. (Possible keys to enter these menus are F2, F12, Delete or Esc).

Step 3: Once you have succeeded in booting Windows from your installation medium, choose the language, time zone and keyboard settings. Then click on **Next**.

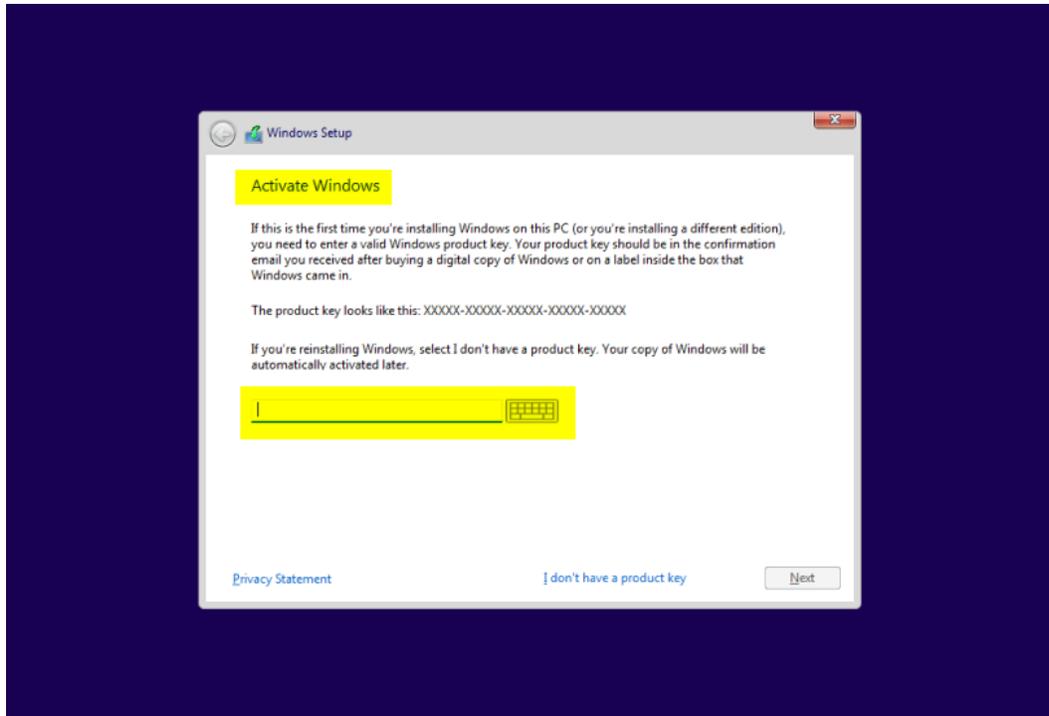




Step 4: Click on 'Install now'.

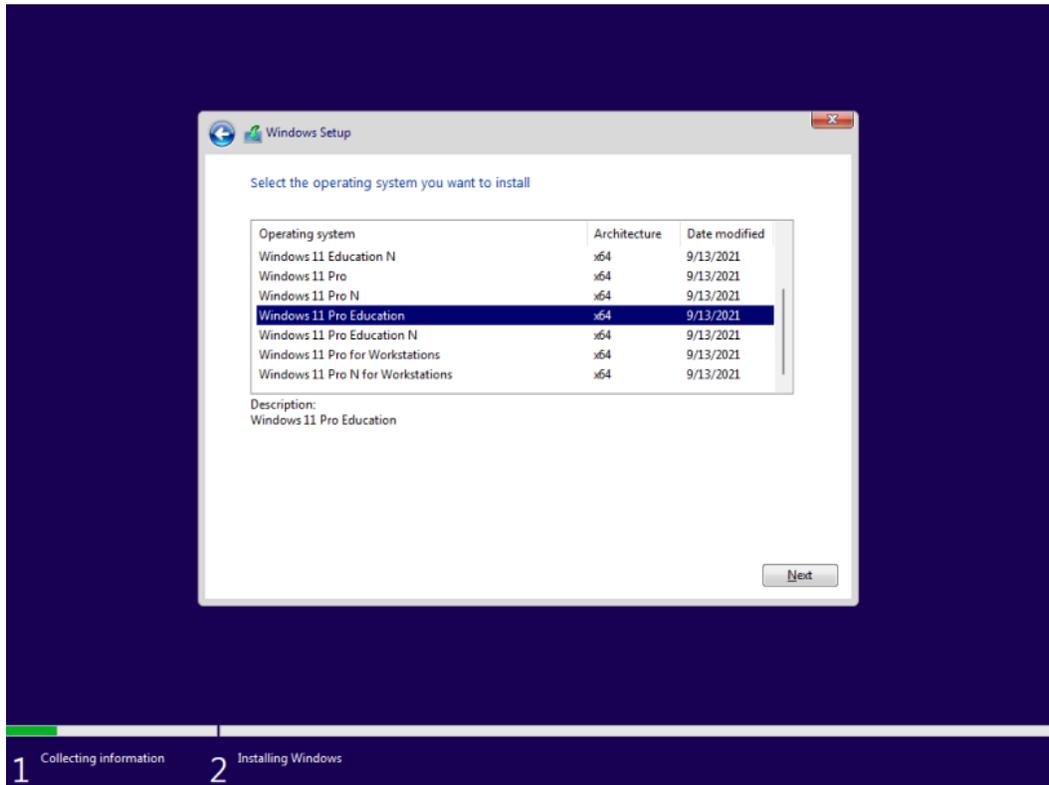


Step 5: Go to Windows 11 on Academic Software. Request a licence by clicking on the request button and copy it. Then enter it and click on Next.

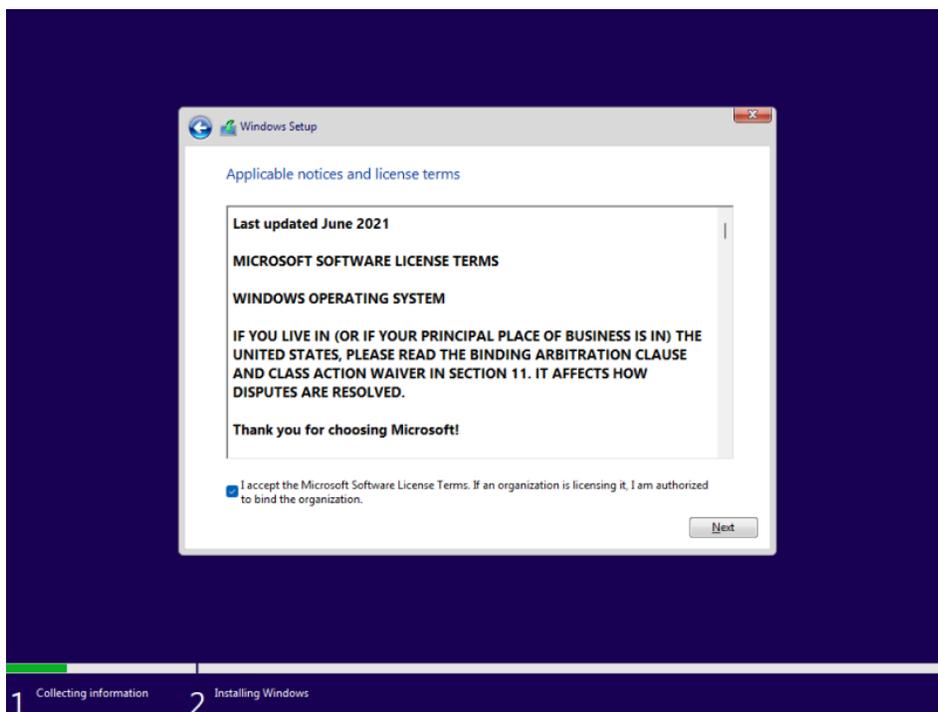


You can also choose to skip this step and enter the licence later after logging into Windows. In this case, select 'I have no product key'. Then choose the Windows version you want to install.

If you want to use an Academic Software licence, you should choose 'Windows 11 Pro Education'.



Step 6: Accept the Licence Agreement and click on Next.



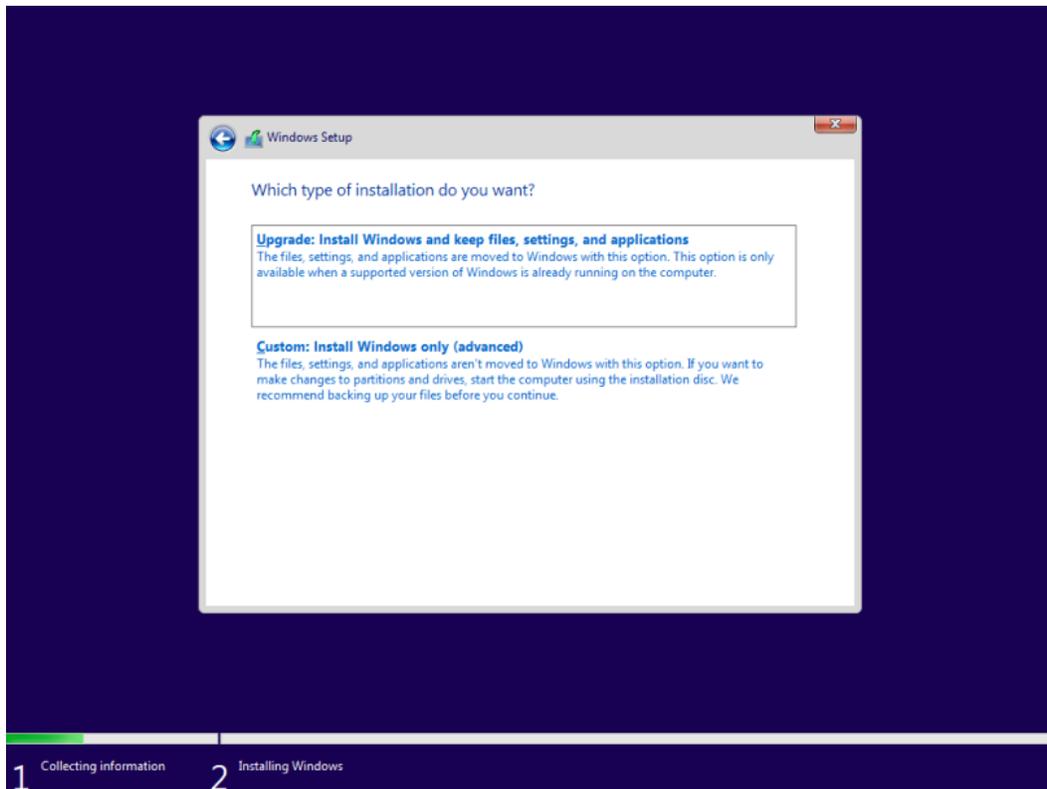
Step 7: Here you have two options:

- **Upgrade: Install Windows and keep files, settings and applications**

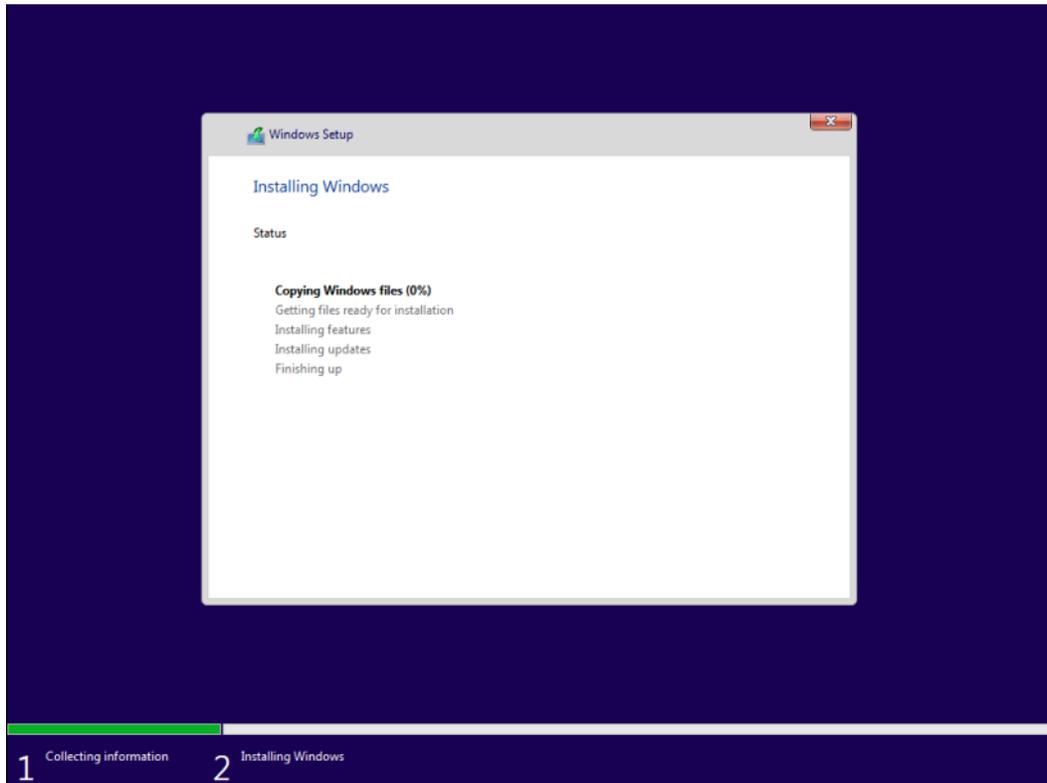
Choose this option if you want to upgrade Windows. All files will be retained. **This option is only available if a Windows version is already running on your computer.**

- **Custom: Install Windows only (Advanced)**

This option will reinstall Windows. **All files on the computer will be deleted.**



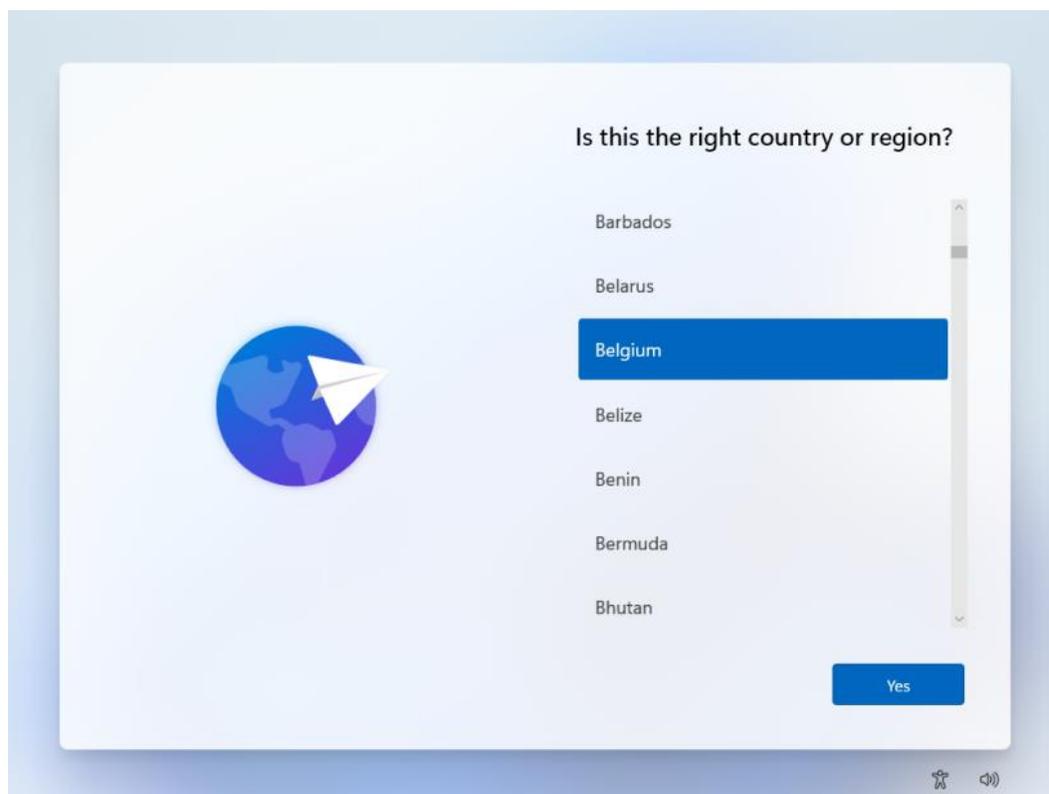
Step 8: Windows will then be installed. This may take a while depending on the speed of your computer.



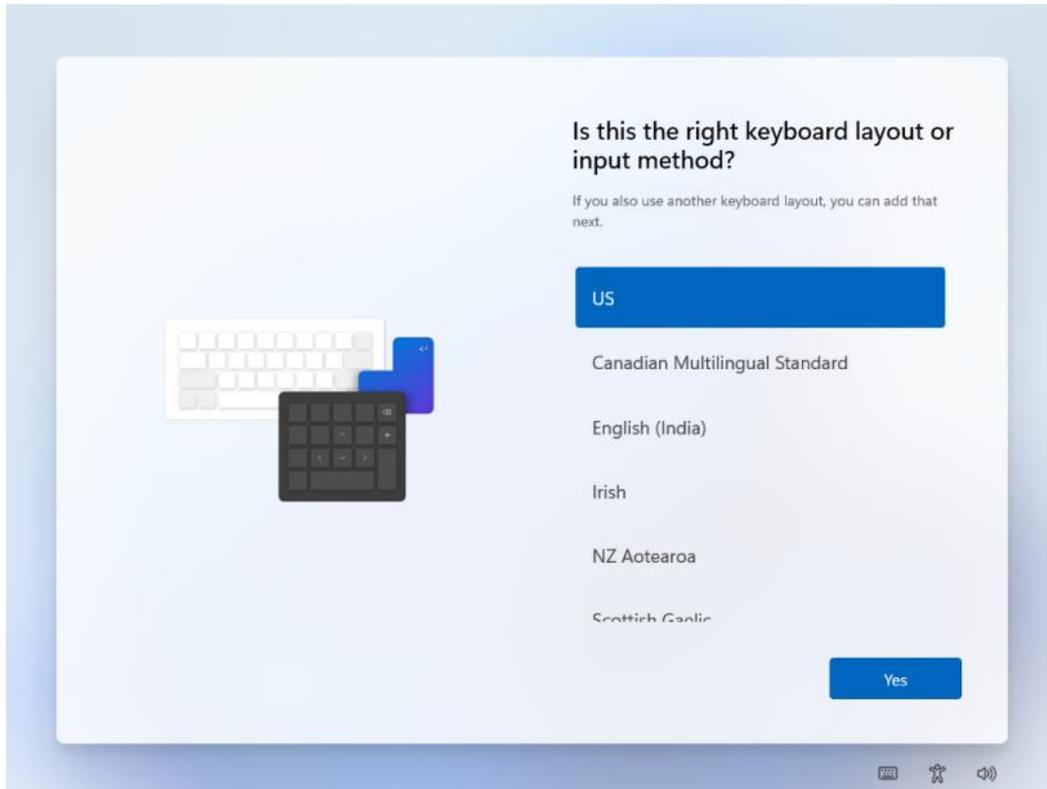
4. First start-up of Windows 11

After Windows has been installed, your computer will reboot. Then go through the boot procedure to start using Windows.

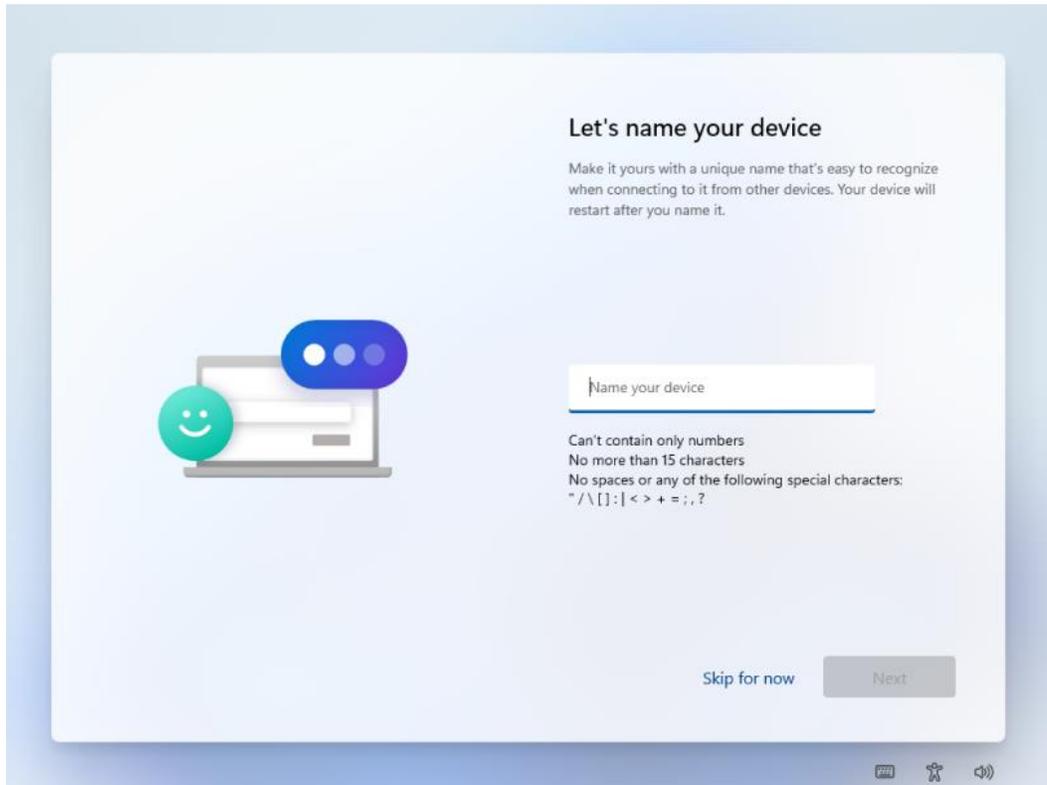
Step 1: Select your region and click on Yes.



Step 2: Select the desired keyboard layout and click on Yes. Add a second keyboard layout if required.



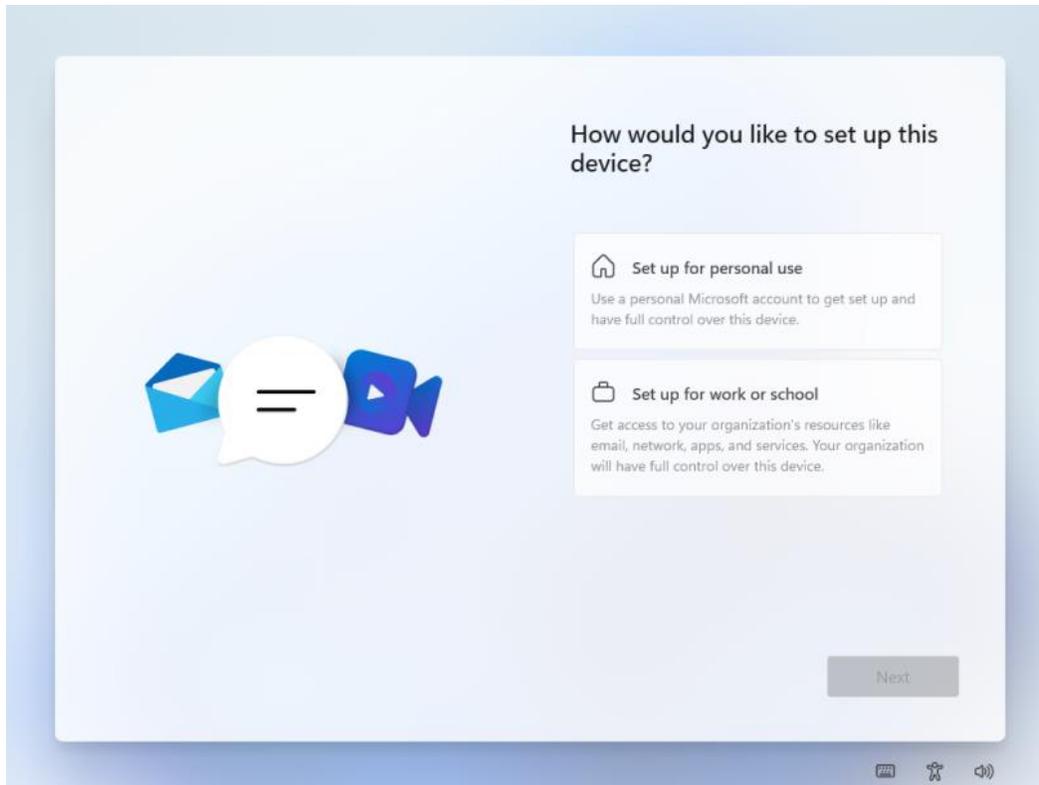
Step 3: Name your computer and click on Next. Click on 'Skip for now' if you want to do this later. Your computer will then restart.



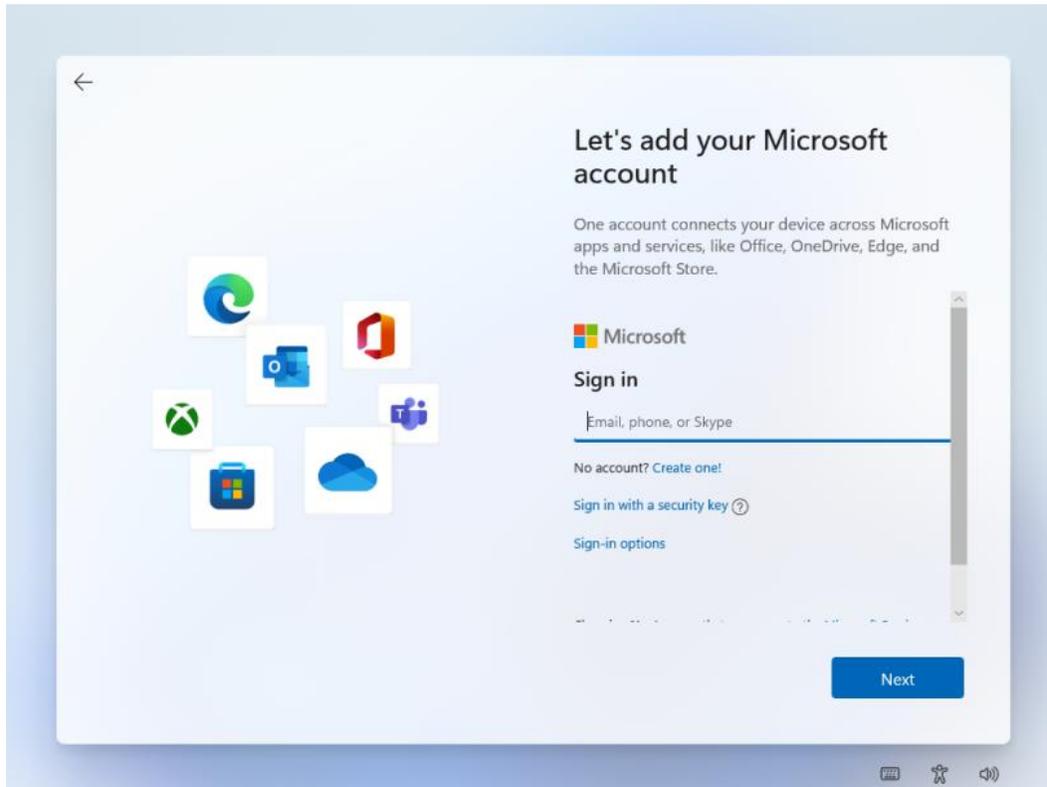
Step 4: Choose how you want to set up your device and click on Next.

Set up for personal use: Sign in with your personal email account and have full control of your device.

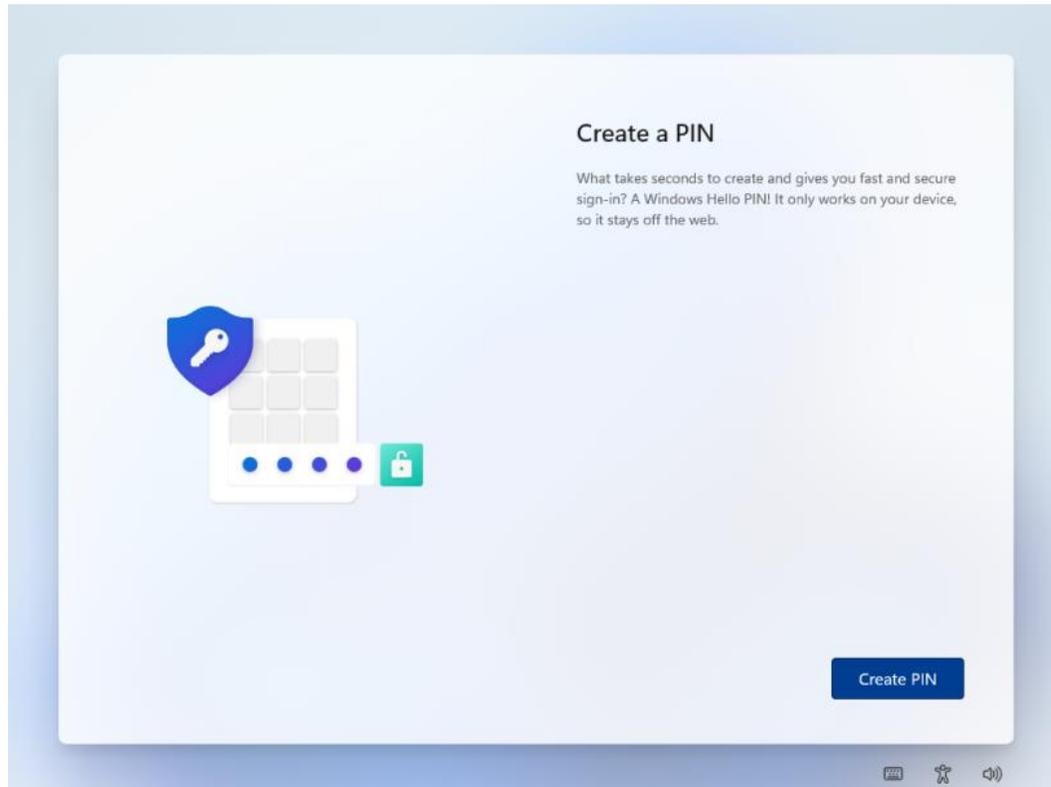
Set up for work or school: Choose this option if you want to add your device to a school or work account. This can be useful to access your organisation's applications or tools.



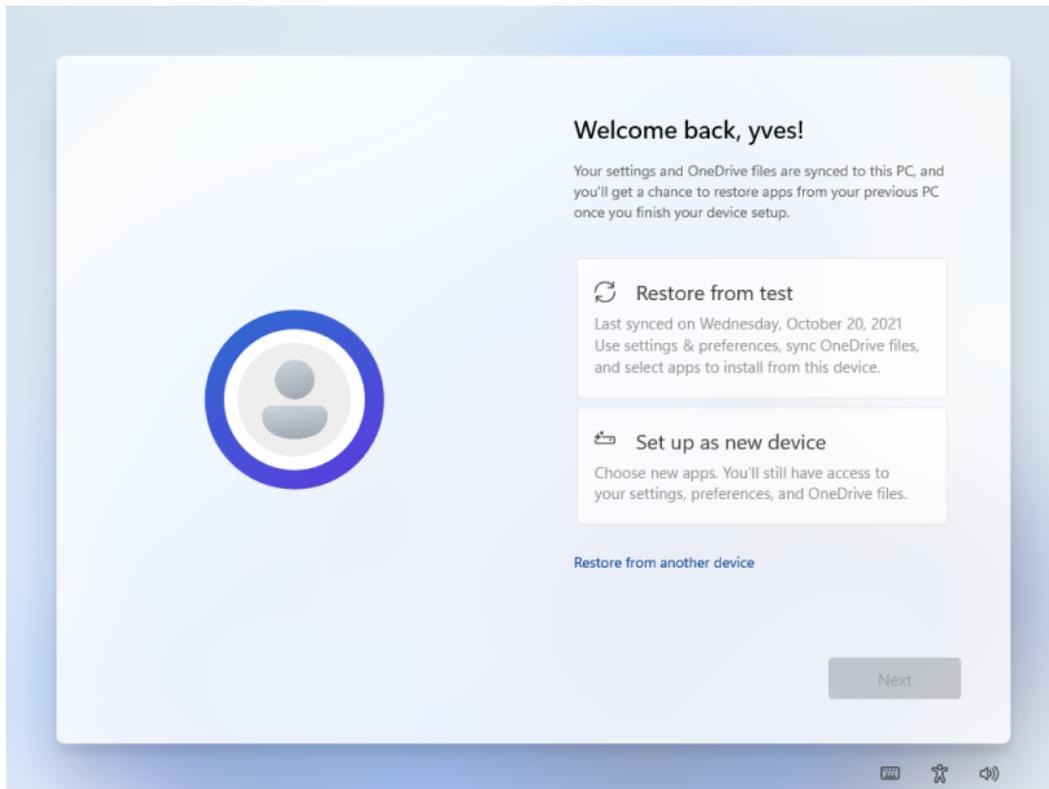
Step 5: Sign in with your Microsoft account and click Next. If you don't have one yet, you can always create a new account by clicking 'Create one!'.



Step 6: Click on 'Create PIN' and create a new PIN. **You will always be able to log in with this PIN code, so choose one that is easy for you to remember.**

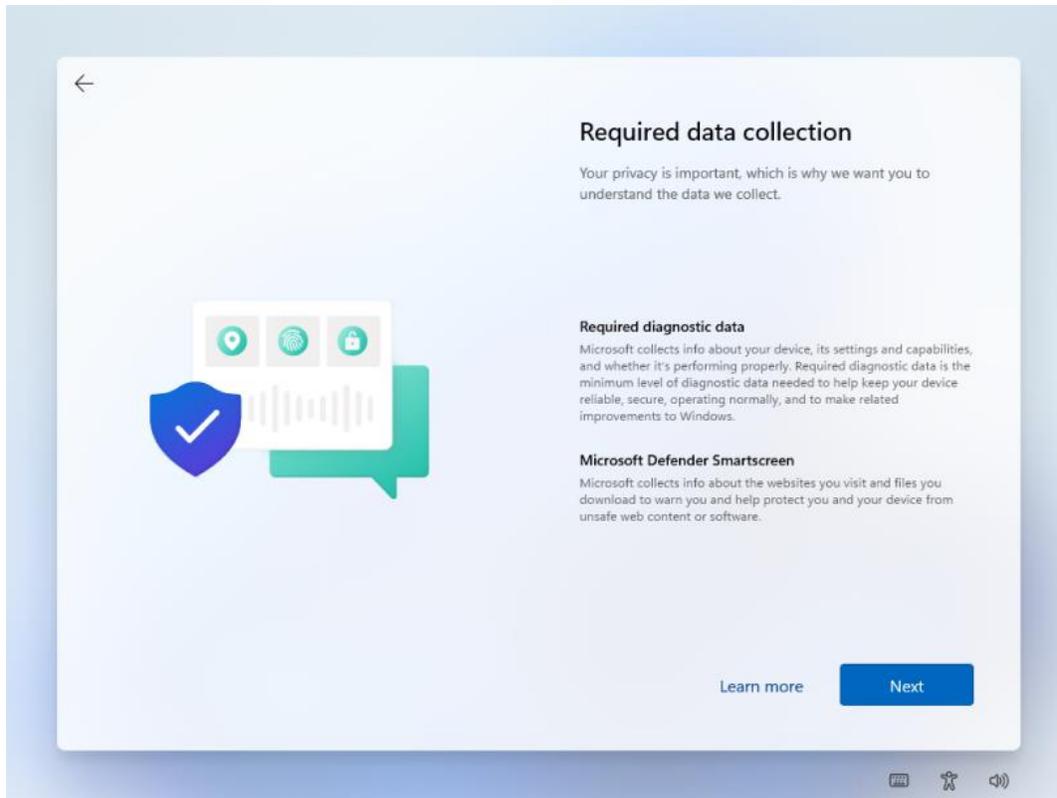


Step 7: If you have synchronised your files with your Microsoft account via OneDrive, you can restore them so that they are immediately accessible on the new installation of Windows. Choose **'Restore from ... (backup name)'**. Otherwise, choose **'Set up as new device'**.

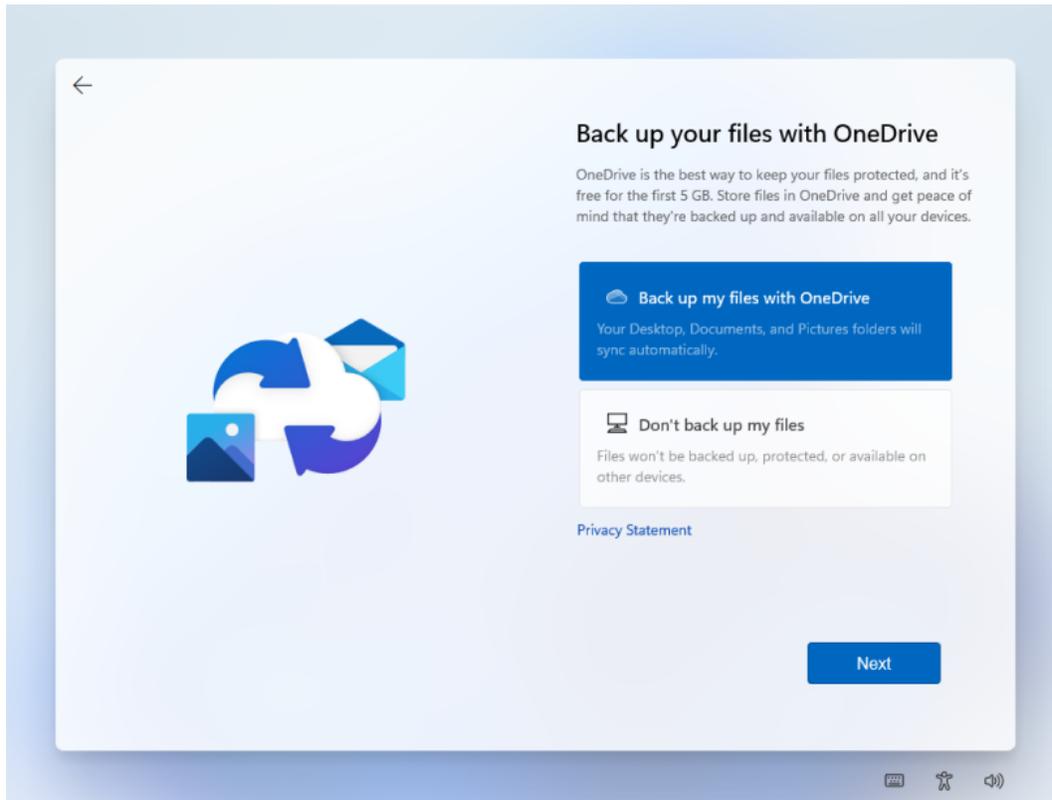




Step 8: Click on Next.

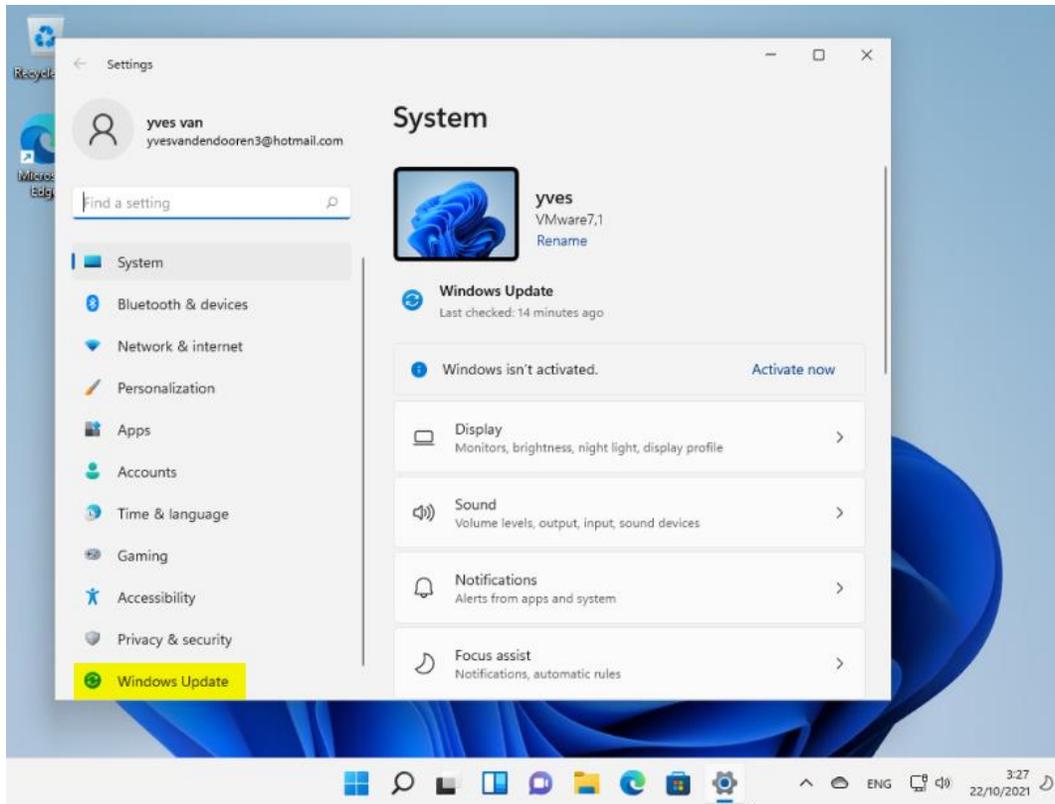


Step 9: Choose '**Back up my files with OneDrive**' if you want to synchronise your files with OneDrive to have your files available in case something goes wrong with your computer for example. Choose '**Don't back up my files**' if you want to disable this option. You can still set this option after installation.

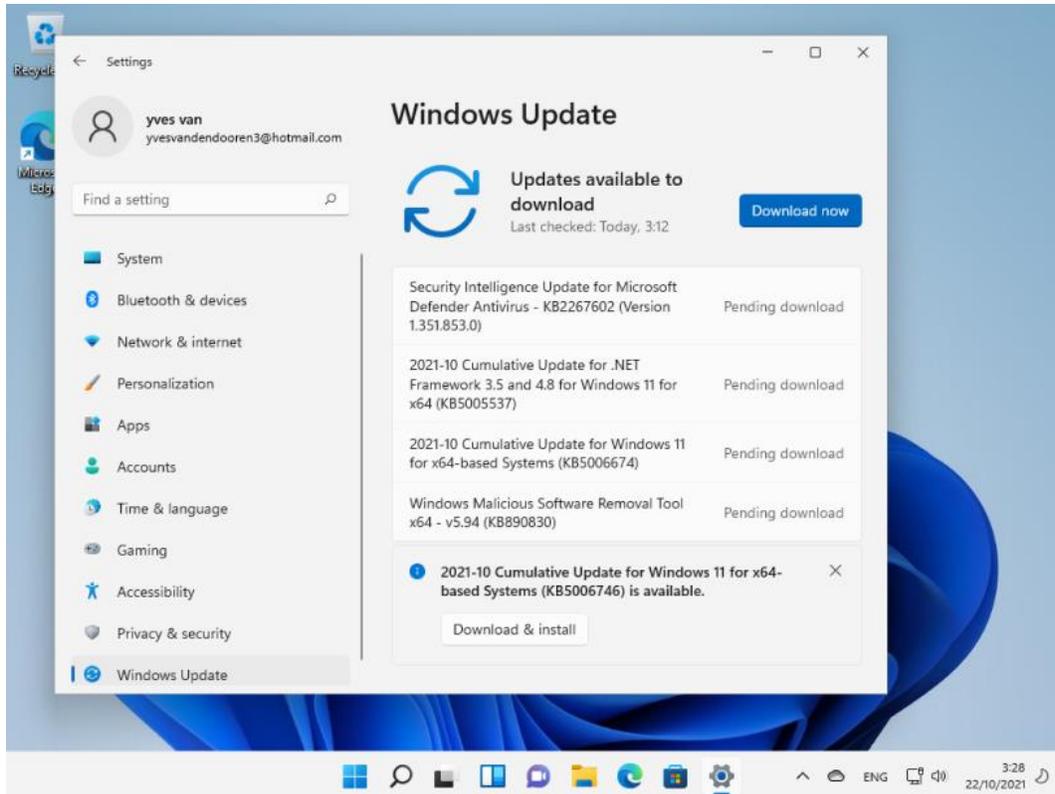


Windows will now be prepared. This may take several minutes.

After you have completed the steps to install Windows 11, check that all the necessary drivers have been installed. To check for updates now, click on the Start button and go to Settings > Windows Update. Select 'Check for updates'. You can also go to your device manufacturer's support site to check for any additional drivers.



Click on 'Download now' and then on 'Install now' to complete the updates. The computer will then restart to install the updates. This may take a while.

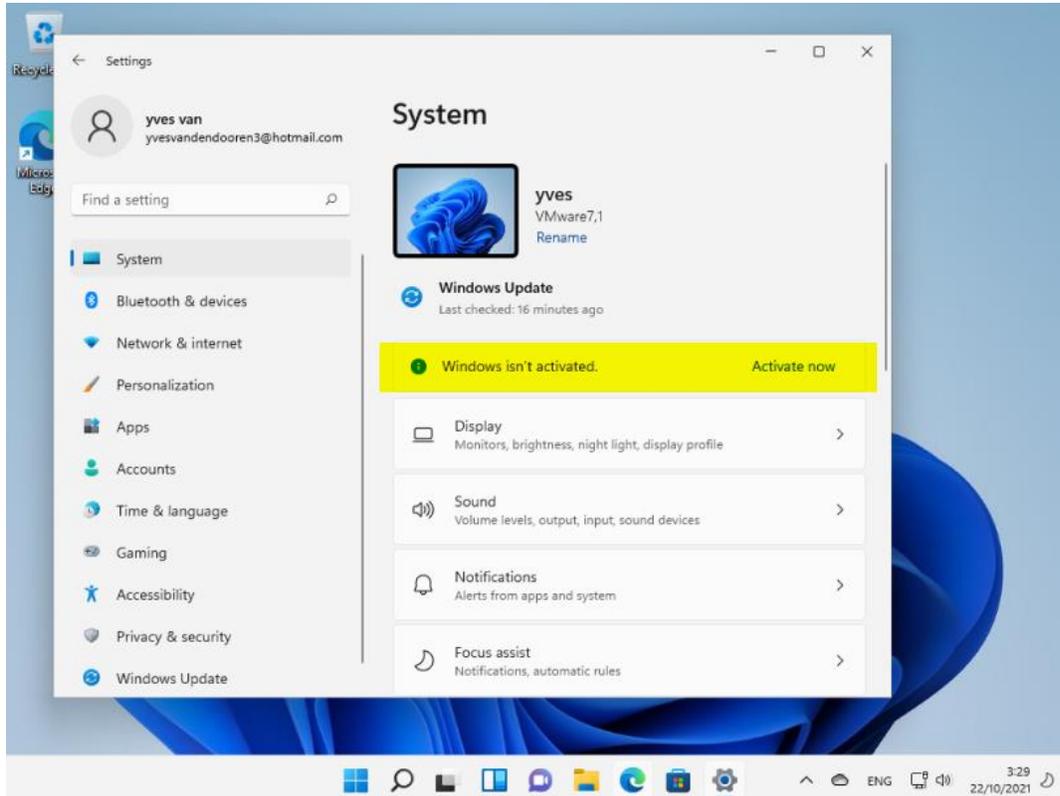


5. Set licence (optional)

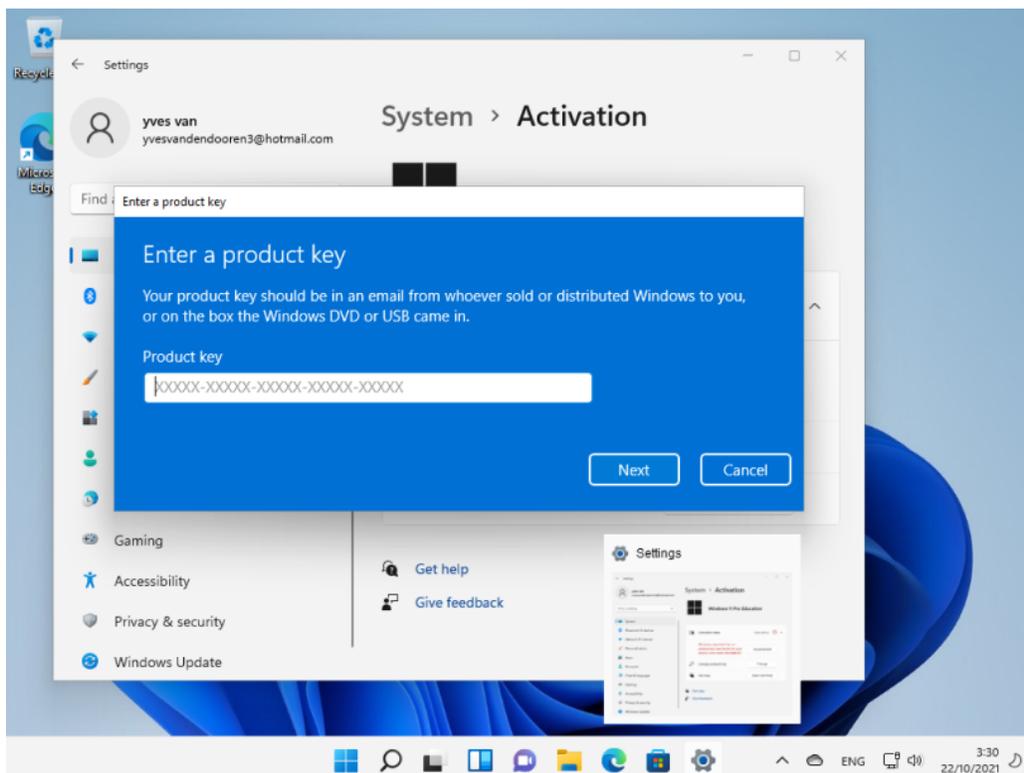
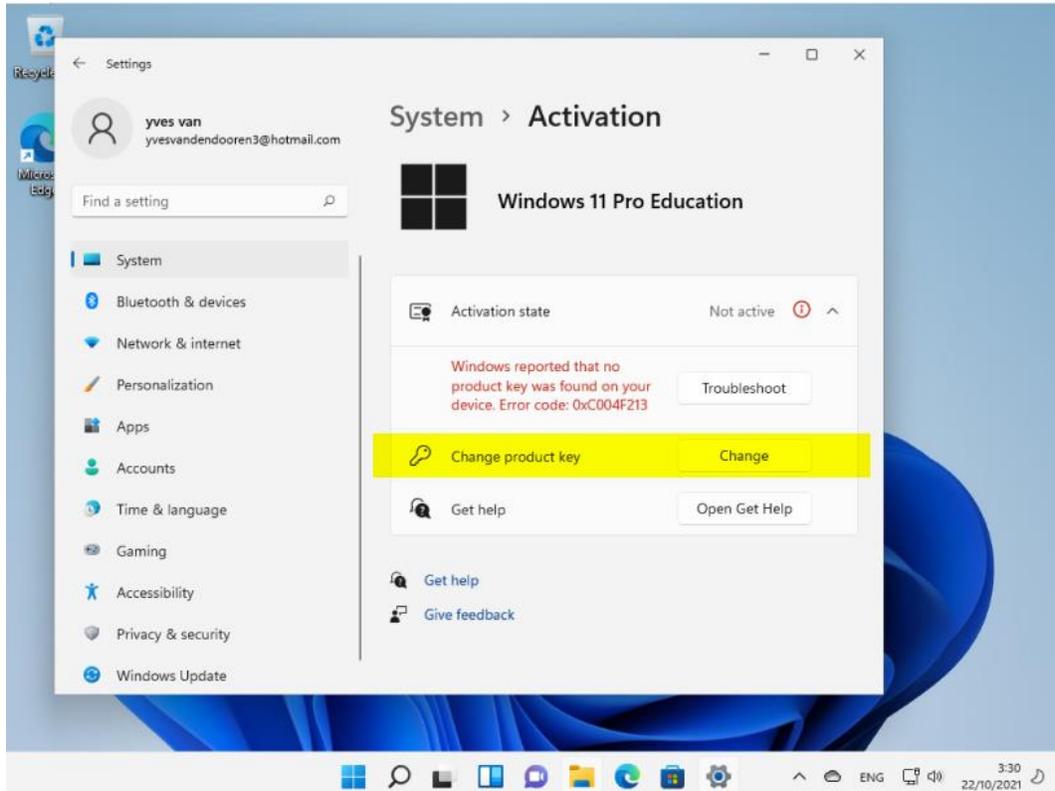
If you did not enter a licence during the installation, you can always enter one after Windows has been installed.

Step 1: Click on the Windows Start button and go to Settings. Click on 'Activate now'.

You can obtain a licence by clicking on the Request button on Academic Software and then copying this licence.



Step 2: You will receive an error message because a valid licence has not yet been found. Click on Change to enter the code.



If you still have questions, don't hesitate to contact our helpdesk.

Have more questions? [Submit a request](#)