

# How to use LM Studio models in Claude Code

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## LM Studio and Claude Code

First, install LM Studio from [lmstudio.ai/download](https://lmstudio.ai/download) and set up a model.

Additionally, if you are running on a virtual machine or a remote server, install llmster:

```
curl -fsSL https://lmstudio.ai/install.sh | bash
```

### 1. Start the local LM Studio server.

Make sure LM Studio is running as the server. You can start it from the application or from the terminal:

```
lms server start --port 1234
```

### 2. Point Claude Code to LM Studio

Set these environment variables so that Claude's CLI can communicate with your local LM Studio server:

```
export ANTHROPIC_BASE_URL=http://localhost:1234 export ANTHROPIC_AUTH_TOKEN=lmst
```

### 3. Run Claude Code in the terminal.

From the terminal, use:

```
claude --model openai/gpt-oss-20b
```

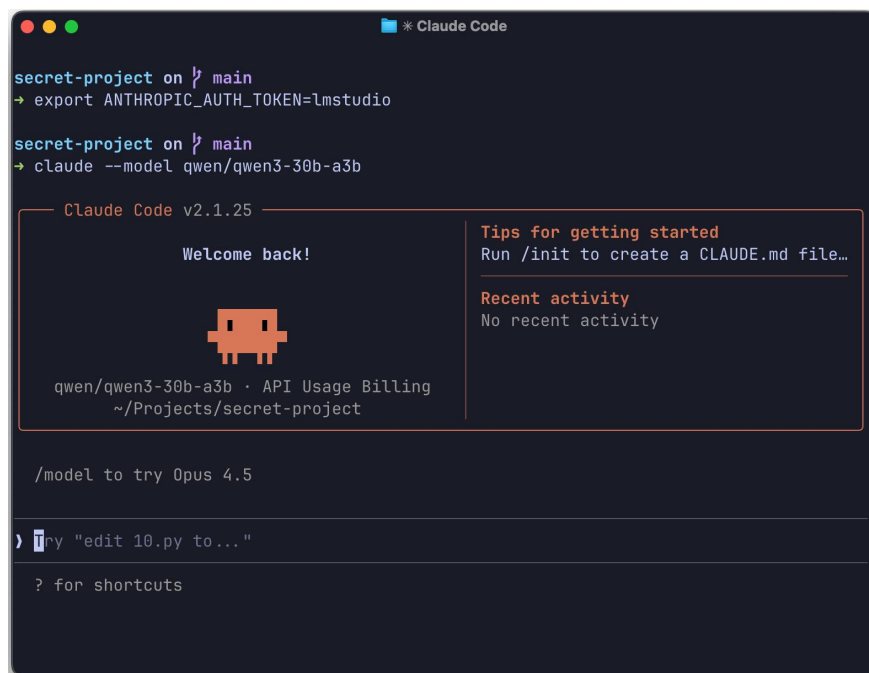
That's it! Claude Code is now using your local model.

You should start with a context size of at least 25K tokens and gradually increase it for better results, as Claude Code can be quite context-heavy.

## Alternatively: Configure Claude Code in VS Code

Open your VS Code settings:

```
"claudeCode.environmentVariables": [ { "name": "ANTHROPIC_BASE_URL", "value": "h
```



LM Studio 0.4.1 provides the `/v1/messages` endpoint, which is compatible with Anthropic. This means that any tool built for the Anthropic API can communicate with LM Studio simply by changing the base URL.

## What is supported

1. Messaging API: Full support for the `/v1/messages` endpoint.
2. Stream: SSE events include `message_start`, `content_block_delta`, and `message_stop`.
3. Use the tool: Call the function to activate immediately.

## Python example

If you're building your own tool, here's how to use the Anthropic Python SDK with LM Studio:

```
from anthropic import Anthropic client = Anthropic( base_url="http://localhost:1234")
```

## Troubleshooting

If you encounter any problems:

1. Check if the server is running: Run `lms status` to verify that the LM Studio server is operational.
2. Check the port: Ensure `ANTHROPIC_BASE_URL` is using the correct port (default: 1234)
3. Check model compatibility: Some models perform better than others for agentic tasks.

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