

CAREERS IN CHEMISTRY



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CHEMISTRY CAREERS

- Analytical chemist
- Chemical engineer
- Healthcare scientist, clinical biochemistry
- Forensic scientist
- Pharmacologist
- Research scientist
- Toxicologist

Jobs where a chemistry degree would be useful include:

- Chartered certified accountant
- Environmental consultant
- Higher education lecturer
- Patent attorney
- Science writer
- Lawyer

Chemistry degrees have a good reputation and are very popular amongst employers because graduates are numerate, with excellent problem solving and analytical skills.

WHERE TO FIND JOB ADVERTS FOR CHEMISTS

- www.jobs.rsc.org
- www.semta.org.uk
- www.wisecampaign.org.uk
- www.futuremorph.org
- www.sciencecouncil.org
- www.nhscareers.nhs.uk
- www.cogent-ssc.com
- www.soci.org
- www.careers.abpi.org.uk

CHEMISTRY DEGREES

Subjects to study at A Level:

Chemistry, Mathematics (if maths not taken at A Level, then some degrees require an A at Mathematics GCSE), Physics and Biology.

Wider reading:

The Mole Magazine, Chemistry World and Chemical Review. An ability to discuss current advances within the chemical field, both in the UK and globally is essential.

Top Universities:

The top 10 UK Universities for Chemistry according to the Complete University Guide are:

Cambridge
Oxford
Durham
Imperial College London
Warwick
St Andrews
York
Edinburgh
Bristol
Bath

(check UCAS website for entry requirements for these universities: WWW.UCAS.COM)

Useful websites:

- The Royal Society of Chemistry - <http://www.rsc.org/chemistryworld/>
- Science Daily - <http://www.sciencedaily.com/>

TOP TIP

Sometimes, during your first year at university it is possible to switch onto other chemistry courses (within the same university/ department) which asked for higher entry requirements than the course you are on!

Other interesting information:

Chemistry - A Level is essential if you want to study Medicine but Biology is often only required to AS Level (it is preferred that you have both).

An MChem is a 4 year undergraduate degree and is preferred if you want a research based career or continue on to PhD level.

GRADUATE PROSPECTS

Independent research shows that the average chemistry graduate earns substantially more over a lifetime than graduates of many other disciplines. A degree in chemistry could increase your lifetime earnings by £190,000 compared to what you could achieve with two A Levels, and by £60,000 compared to most other graduates (www.rsc.org.uk).

Internships and Work Experience:

If you have the option it is advised that you undertake an industrial placement as an undergraduate. Obtaining some relevant work experience is a valuable way of gaining an insight into your options and building your CV. If your chosen company does not offer a formal scheme, try sending a speculative CV asking for work shadowing or short-term work experience this can be done at A Level too.

Volunteering is another excellent way of enhancing your CV. Although you may not find many opportunities that directly relate to a chemistry degree, there are many schemes that focus on related areas such as the environment, sustainability, ethics and medicine.

Useful places to look for Chemistry related work placements and internships:

- Try contacting your local Education Business Partnership and or your local STEMNET contract holder
- The Nuffield Foundation offer research placements to over 1,000 students.
- The British Science Association Crest Awards scheme can help students gain key employability skills.
- The Year in Industry (YINI) is the UK's leading student placement expert who may be able to offer you one year placements before you start university.

CELEBRITIES WHO STUDIED CHEMISTRY

Indra Nooyi / Ashton Kutcher / Dolph Lundgren / Margaret Thatcher / Jennifer Garner

