Careers in Chemistry

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:

1. **Cambridge**
2. **Oxford**
3. **Durham**
4. **Imperial College London**
5. **Warwick**
6. **St Andrews**
7. **York**
8. **Edinburgh**
9. **Bristol**
10. **Bath**

(check UCAS website for entry requirements for these universities: www.ucas.com)

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Useful websites

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

Top Tips

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.**

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