

Chemistry @ UK unis - quick facts

Top 20*

1 Oxford	A*A*A	11 Lancaster	ABB
2 Cambridge	A*A*A (NatSci)	12 Imperial	A*A*A/A*AA
3 Durham	A*AA	13 KCL	AAB
4 York	A*AA	14 Bath	AAA/AAB
5 St Andrews	AAA	15 Edinburgh	AAA
6 Glasgow	AAB	16 Heriot-Watt	BBC
7 Liverpool	ABB	17 Bristol	AAA
8 Nottingham	AAA	18 Strathclyde	BBB
9 UCL	AAA	19 Nottingham Trent	BBC
10 Warwick	AAB	20 Birmingham	AAB

* Complete University Guide April 2020

Must haves

You will need chemistry A Level and usually at least one more science subject: maths is often preferred. An application with three or more science subjects is competitive. In addition to chemistry, these could include maths, FM, physics, biology, geography.

Other degrees to consider

Biochemistry, pharmacology, genetics, chemical engineering

Example course modules

Organic and biological chemistry, shapes, properties and reactions of molecules, solid state chemistry, molecular pharmacology, inorganic chemistry, states of matter, chemistry of materials, chemistry for the physical sciences, the global earth system, mineralogy & petralogy.

Contact hours per week: 16 - 25, average 20. (Average all subjects 14.)

Career prospects

The number of students taking chemistry courses hasn't changed much in the last ten years, even as numbers in most other subjects have risen, and it's felt the UK has a shortage of chemistry grads overall. If you want a career in research, you need a doctorate, so start planning now if you fancy one of these exciting and challenging jobs. But many industries, from the food industry to teaching, need chemistry graduates, and they're also prized by business and finance employers for their research and data handling skills – anywhere there is research and data to be explained, you can find chemistry grads. The current global economic situation hasn't been too kind to chemists, particularly in the pharmaceutical industry (one of the key employers for chemists), but as chemists' skills are always in demand, things should improve over the next few years. Consider areas like oil & gas, agrichemicals, toxicology, forensic science.

Average starting salary: £21,000