

Careers and Employability Service
Additional resources and information for
Chemistry

Welcome:

We have developed this recourse pack to help you research specific job sectors which may be of particular interest to Chemistry students.

- Prospects.ac.uk - Options with Chemistry
- Prospects.ac.uk - Options with Chemical Engineering

The Prospects sites include information and advice covering: Your skills, job options, career areas, further study, what next, case studies, contacts and job search sites.

- [Royal Society of Chemistry](http://RoyalSocietyofChemistry.org) – The world’s leading chemistry community advancing excellence in the chemical sciences. Part of their website focuses on [Jobs and Careers](#).

SKILLS:

The skills gained during a Chemistry degree are wide ranging and can lead to a variety of employment opportunities and postgraduate courses both within and outside of science. As well as developing a range of academic abilities, laboratory skills and techniques your programme of study within Chemistry develops a range of transferable skills. The Higher Education Academy’s “[Using Your Chemistry Degree to Get a Job](#)” is a useful resource and expands on the key skills and abilities outlined below:

- Analyse and assess information and data
- Apply numeracy, communication and information technology skills efficiently
- Use effective interpersonal and team working skills including demonstrating an appreciation of different points of view
- Self-manage, think independently, set tasks and solve problems.

Employment Activities within your degree:

Long and short term placements are offered as part of many chemistry programmes and support is provided to students undertaking placement opportunities via:

- A dedicated Southampton advisor providing you academic and pastoral support throughout your placement
- Workplace Awareness Seminars for students undertaking placements, which are designed to prepare you for the work place.
- A distance learning package is available via the Blackboard Virtual Learning Environment, which provides a series of study packs to support you in securing a placement opportunity.

If you are an MChem undergraduate considering a year-long placement in Year 3 or a six month placement during Year 4, please address any questions to the Chemistry Department in the first instance and ask to speak to the Placement Tutor.

An alternative opportunity for students not undertaking placements is the University's summer school, which provides you a 4 week on site programme, which is sponsored and attended by many employers within the sector. The programme provides you practical experiences and discussion forums to reflect on what you have learnt.

A number of [work experience](#) opportunities are also offered by Career Destinations in addition to a variety of [events, tailored workshops and presentations](#) to provide advice and support on how to succeed within the sector.

Employment:

Chemistry graduates enter a very wide range of careers - both scientific and non-scientific. The following examples give a sense of the range of jobs Southampton Chemistry graduates have gone into over recent years. Data has been collected from graduates completing the [DLHE Survey](#) six months after graduation and from alumni information.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Compliance Rep, Sigma Aldrich
- Graduate Chemist, AstraZeneca
- Polymer Chemist, AWE
- Process Chemist, GSK
- Quality Assurance Analyst, GSK
- Research Chemist, UCB Celltech
- Research & Development Scientist, Lafarge UK
- Research Scientist, Novartis
- Scientist: Ferring Pharmaceuticals
- Scientific Researcher, MOD

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, BANKING & FINANCE

- Associate, PWC
- Trainee Chartered Accountant, KPMG
- Scientific Researcher, MOD

Finding Job Vacancies:

As a graduate from Chemistry you can go into a wide range of occupations, some open to all graduates, and some particularly relevant to your degree. Information and advice about how to find out about employment opportunities can be found on our [Job Hunt webpages](#) and on the [Prospects](#) website.

When applying for vacancies you may need support in constructing a CV, filling out an Application Form, drafting a Cover Letter or preparing for Interview. We offer support on all of these areas via our [Job Application Resources webpages](#).

Chemistry Related Jobs and Internships:

The information below can be used to find job vacancies or industrial connections related to your programme, and/or to build understanding of relevant roles. Consider exploring job opportunities, career advice sites and associations/societies related to your degree programme or interests. Alongside this list make the most of the opportunities provided by the University to meet and network with employers and alumni from Chemistry and learn from their experiences.

- **Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI)** – representing innovative research-based pharmaceutical companies in the UK. www.abpi.org.uk
 - **Pharmaceutical Industry Career Information from the ABPI** – Information on opportunities within the pharmaceutical industry in the UK for a range of audiences including university students. www.careers.abpi.org.uk
 - **ABPI Membership List** – A full listing of ABPI members in many established research based organisations. www.abpi.org.uk/about-us/membership/Pages/full-membership-list.aspx
- **Royal Society of Chemistry** – Key information on Jobs and Career pathways within the Chemistry and Chemical related industries. www.rsc.org/careers-jobs
- **New Scientist** – Each year a [Graduate Careers Special](#) is produced providing advice, information and opportunities.
- **NHS Careers** – Vacancies within the National Health Service across England and Wales. www.nhscareers.nhs.uk AND www.jobs.nhs.uk including the [Scientist Training Programme](#) targeted at graduate entrants
- **INEOS** – Key themes in the chemical industry and the business world. <http://www.ineos.com/inch-magazine>

Specialist Recruitment Agencies (Science Focus):

- **Hyper Recruitment Solutions** – Providing recruitment solutions for specialist sectors including BioTech and Pharma. www.hyperec.com
- **Jobs.ac.uk** – Research, Science, Academic, Teaching and Management jobs and studentships in the public and private sector. www.jobs.ac.uk
- **Lab Support** – An international leader in placing scientific, engineering and preclinical professionals in contract and direct hire opportunities. www.labsupport.co.uk
- **Matchtech** – Provide clients with complete recruitment solutions across Engineering, Technology, Professional and Skills & Employability sectors. www.matchtech.com
- **NatureJobs.com** – Packed with the latest career articles, science jobs and employment news. www.nature.com/naturejobs/science
- **SRG** – An award-winning resourcing company dedicated to the science, clinical and engineering sectors. www.srg.co.uk

Postgraduate Study and Research:

Approximately over one third of graduates from Chemistry pursue [further study](#) opportunities following completion of an undergraduate programme. For many people a PhD provides an important part of developing a career in science. You will generally require a good 2:1 in your first degree and will need to demonstrate the ability to sustain interest in your research topic for 3 to 4 years.

Many of our graduates have also demonstrated that it is possible to take postgraduate courses to prepare for many other careers including teaching, the legal professions and environmental health. Below are typical examples of the courses entered by graduates from Chemistry six months after graduation (data collected from 2004 onwards).

PhD:

University of Belfast
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
University of Dublin
University of Southampton
University of Surrey

MSc:

Aberystwyth University
University of Southampton
University of Surrey
University of Wolverhampton