

Chemistry at Bath

Written by students,
for students



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Find out what it's **really like** to study chemistry at Bath from **the experts**, our chemistry students.



This brochure has been written with chemistry students. It's **based on questions they had before they started their course** covering everything from labs, what to do if you're struggling with maths, to making friends.

If you have any specific questions about living or studying here, please speak to staff and students at an Applicant Visit Day, or contact us directly – see back page for details.

This booklet is based on students' experiences of studying prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. For information on Covid-19 please visit: bath.ac.uk/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/



Grace Sparrow,
MChem Chemistry
with study year
abroad



Ed Grummit,
MChem Chemistry



Annabel Griesmeyer,
BSc Chemistry with
Management



Anna Stearn,
MChem
Chemistry with
placement



Marvin Kemmer,
MSci Chemistry with
Management with
placement



Annabel Flook,
MChem Chemistry with
placement



Meet the experts



Ffion Platt,
MChem Chemistry
with placement



Ollie Jarvis,
BSc Chemistry

Settling in

Your first week at Bath will most likely be **Freshers' Week**. It's all about **finding your way around, meeting new people and getting used to a new routine.**

"Freshers' week was awesome as there was always something to do. It meant that I had **loads of activities** to do with my new flatmates that **helped us get to know each other** so easily."

Anna



"There are many good unis in the UK, but **there is no city like Bath!** Although Bath is relatively small, it's always really lively and has a young feel to it."

Annabel G

2nd

Bath has been ranked as the **2nd safest University City** in the UK in the most recent THE Student Experience Survey (2018)

"The campus is small and I loved being able to **roll out of bed** and go straight into my lectures – I didn't have to stress about travel at all."

Annabel F

"In first year, I lived in **Eastwood** which was **one of the best decisions I made**. It was a big flat of 13 and I was initially quite nervous, but soon realised that we were all in the same position."

Ed



In first year, **most students choose to live in university accommodation, either on-campus or in the City.** See all accommodation options: go.bath.ac.uk/student-accommodation



Join a supportive community



"The chemistry department at Bath is known for being one of the **friendliest at the Uni**. All staff are genuinely happy to help with any queries you have."

Ffion

You'll be assigned three **tutors** – **one for each branch of chemistry**. One will also be your **Personal Tutor**.



You'll get a **Chem Crew Peer Mentor** – a current chemistry student to help you settle in.



"Every week, we spend time with our tutors in tutorials, **going through questions from the lectures**, which I find so helpful. We have three tutors, each specialising in one of organic, inorganic or physical chemistry, so they know what they're talking about! You'll also be given a **Personal Tutor** who sees you through your whole time at uni. I feel like I've talked to mine about literally everything – work, friends, balancing uni life and gossip."

Annabel F

"**Small group tutorials are great.**

They are normally made up of 5 or 6 students and you can talk through the tutorial questions and any other topics you are struggling with."

Anna



"It's really good being able to interact with an academic in a less intimidating situation than a lecture."

Ed

If you ever need a bit of **extra support** whether it's **money worries or mental health**, we've got a range of services to help you out.

go.bath.ac.uk/student-services



The step-up to university

"I was quite worried about the step up to uni but I **had a really nice transition** into uni life. First year introduced me to many new concepts, however, it didn't feel too much harder than A Level. The tutors ensured I was coping with the course content and I could **reach out for advice from my Peer Mentor** who had already experienced first year."

Dominic



If you're ever **struggling with Maths**, MASH – the University's Mathematics Resources Centre can help.

They run **daily drop-in sessions** where you can ask general questions or get help with specific maths problems.

go.bath.ac.uk/mash

"I wish someone had told me that **you do not need to be a maths genius to study chemistry**. The transition might seem scary, but with the support available I found that it was very achievable."

Annabel G

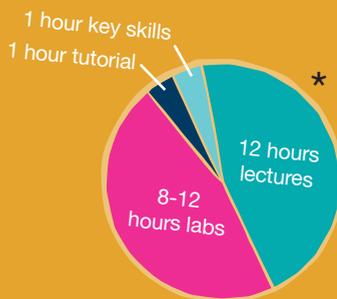
"**Lecture recordings are really useful**. If you are unable to make a lecture you do not miss out on the information and can also re-watch the parts of the lecture you don't understand and use them for revision."

Grace

"For me, the hardest thing was learning how to **manage my time**. Although contact hours are high, I had to learn to be **more independent**. Luckily due to the labs and the tutorials, I quickly built a relationship with staff in the Department, who were always happy to help."

Annabel G

A typical week



Plus 2 hours foundation maths if required

**This pie chart is intended to give you an idea of your potential first year timetable breakdown and does not include time spent on independent study. Your actual timetable may vary.*

Learning in the labs

In first year, you'll spend a **whole day every week** in labs.



"The labs were a big part of my decision to choose Bath. For me, it was **important to have enough hours and experience in the lab** to prepare for a possible industry job."

Anna

"**PhD students work as demonstrators** in our labs which is incredibly helpful, as asking them for help can feel less daunting than asking a lecturer. However 'silly' you think your question is, or whatever glassware you've smashed, **they'll help you out!** They are also great to talk to about placements, revision or even housing."

Ffion



"One of the **best parts of first year are the lab sessions.** Despite being a day long, they are very relaxed and give you the opportunity to apply the principles you learn in your lectures and also meet new people."

Ed

"We get to use all kinds of equipment that I didn't get to during my A Levels. I've really **enjoyed the computing labs** in particular which involves modelling molecules, as it is an area of chemistry I'd never even heard of before I came to university."

Anna



There are 3 types of labs:

- Computational
- Physical
- Synthetic (organic and inorganic)



Life outside the lab

Volunteer • Join a society • Try a sport

There's more to being a student than studying - whether you're interested in baking, sports or computer games you'll definitely be able to find something you enjoy.

"First year leaves you with **plenty of time** to find your friends, socialise, join clubs and sports teams."

Annabel F

"I'm a member of the Lacrosse Club and **despite never playing before**, I have enjoyed every minute. It's a great way to **meet people** and has offered **amazing socials**."

Ed



There are **over 160 student groups** on offer, from societies to volunteering: thesubath.com/groups



"Every **Wednesday**, **sports clubs** have a **night out** called Score. They generally begin in the city centre and all end at the on-campus club. It's really good fun and you get to mix with people from all years."

Grace

Did you know?

We have around **50 sports clubs** and offer competitive and recreational options thesubath.com/sport



Bath's nightlife venues include a mix of **underground clubs and bars**, **cosy pubs**, **comedy clubs** and **countless restaurants** so there's something for everyone.

"**ChemSoc** organise monthly socials, which I've really enjoyed and they've been a great way to get to know **other students on my course outside of lectures.**"

Grace



"As it's a campus uni, there are **many places to hang out** with friends during breaks. My favourite is the SU, because they make really good crêpes!"

Annabel G

"I really enjoy going to the club on campus because it's really fun and **so easy to get to**. It's great in first year as you don't have to get the bus into town if you don't want to."

Anna



"The SU organise trips such as to Stonehenge which are great to do on a weekend when you have very little planned."

Grace



We even have our own on **campus bar and nightclub**.

"I **love the city**, it is beautiful and so much fun to explore with friends in your time off – there's always a new cute coffee shop to try out!"

Anna



Buses run between campus and town 24/7 to make sure you get home safely.



Go on a placement year

Going on placement could **improve your employability**, whilst giving you the chance to **try out a possible career path** to see if it's right for you.

"I chose to do a placement because it is an **amazing experience** and **will look great on my CV**. I really like labs and want to know what it will be like to work in labs in industry."

Ffion



Pollyanna on placement at the Future Industries Institute in South Australia.

Even if you haven't chosen to do a placement you can **easily switch onto the course** when you get here.

"I didn't want to do a placement originally, but I soon switched on to it as Bath has **so many different opportunities** available. They're **usually paid**, and you can **even go abroad** – even as far as New Zealand."*

Annabel F

"Placement applications are competitive, but the **Placements Team at Bath is amazing**. They help with writing your CV and cover letter and can give you mock interviews. All of the placements are posted in one place, so it's easy to find and apply to them. Some placements are only open to Bath students, which shows how much **companies value the Uni.**"

Ffion



Lewis on placement at Sun Chemical

We have a **dedicated Placements Team** who will support you **before and during your placement year**.

go.bath.ac.uk/science-placements

Study abroad

Studying abroad in your third year can offer you a **once-in-a-lifetime experience** to immerse yourself in a **different culture**. It can help you to develop your problem solving and communication skills, to **improve your employability**.



Ella Reed, study year abroad at the National University Singapore

"I chose the study year abroad option so I could **experience a new culture** and **hopefully increase my employability** because it shows your flexibility. I also believe studying abroad develops your independence skills as you are away from all family and friends."

Grace

"I've found **lots of support** for study abroad ranging from talks by returning students to posters and information about past students' experiences."

Grace

"I chose Bath because there are so many institutions for a study year abroad to choose from. There are **institutions all over the world**, ranging from **Australia to France**. Most institutions will also offer language lessons making it easier to communicate with your peers."

Grace

You will receive **tailored support** from our **specialist team**.
go.bath.ac.uk/study-abroad

Ways you can find out more



Read our student blogs: blogs.bath.ac.uk/students

Chat to a current student:

In early 2022, all offer holders will have the opportunity to **ask a student** any questions about living and studying at Bath. You don't need to do anything, simply lookout for a call or email from a current student sometime in early 2022.

Join us on social media:



facebook.com/uniofbath



twitter.com/bathchem



instagram.com/bathchem/

Contact the Department

chemistryapplicants@bath.ac.uk

01225 384884

go.bath.ac.uk/chem



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