Chemistry

Graduate Outcomes 2020/21

Full-time UK domiciled first degree graduates - 15 months after Bath

The University of Bath has an excellent record of graduate employment, featuring in the top ten for graduate prospects in three major national league tables*. Across all subjects, 92% of Bath 2020/21 graduates who are employed in the UK are in high skilled employment, compared to 74% nationally#. Hundreds of employers of all sizes and from all industries each year advertise vacancies, deliver presentations or network with our students; we are in the top 15 universities targeted by employers†.

The information shown here is from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Graduate Outcomes survey for 2020/21 leavers. It is the biggest UK annual social survey and captures the perspectives and current status of recent graduates, 15 months after leaving university.

A Chemistry degree is a passport into a broad range of careers, with opportunities in and outside of the lab. You will graduate with excellent problem-solving skills and the ability to think logically and critically about complex situations. You will design experiments and apply chemical sciences knowledge to solve real-world problems such as discovering new vaccines, creating sustainable packaging, and tackling climate change. A degree in Chemistry will equip you with versatile skills highly regarded by employers in job sectors as diverse as finance, IT, and marketing. So, if you decided you wanted to work in an unrelated field, opportunities are abundant.

Courses included:

- Chemistry BSc/MChem
- Chemistry for Drug Discovery BSc/MChem
- Chemistry with Management BSc

Response rate	
Total in 2020/21 cohort	115[$]
% response rate	**71%**

[$]Number rounded to the nearest multiple of five

Graduate outcomes by activity

Activity summary	
Employment	61%
Voluntary/unpaid work	1%
Employment and further study	5%
Further study	20%
Other: travel, caring, retired	6%
Unemployed[§]	6%
Total	**100%**

Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. Activity defined using HESA XACTIVITY: takes account of all activities and most important activity.

[§]Unemployed includes those due to start work or study.

*6th in the Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024, 4th in the Complete University Guide 2024, and 4th in the Guardian University Guide 2024

#Compared with all Universities UK members.

†The Graduate Market in 2024, High Fliers Research.

Industries and employers

Chemistry is everywhere. From manufacturing what we wear to the development of life-changing medicines and finding solutions to environmental crises and climate change.

Industries such as biotechnology, perfumes and cosmetics, petrochemicals, and textiles all recruit chemists either in specialist or business functions.

The most frequent of the industry categories are:

- Professional, scientific and technical activities
- Manufacturing
- Education

Examples of employers for the 2020/21 cohort:

- Brandcast Health
- Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
- EDF Energy
- Mazars
- Vectura

Occupations and job titles

A Chemistry degree opens doors to some of the most exciting and cutting-edge jobs. The fourth industrial revolution and advances in technology have resulted in exciting careers for chemists ranging from discovering vaccines and medical tests to optimising electrical vehicles range and power to tackling climate change.

You will have the scope to pursue a highly specialised career using your degree. Or you can use the wide range of transferable skills you'll gain to work in a general business role.

The vast majority of our UK employed Chemistry graduates are in high skilled employment (92%).

High skilled employment includes these three categories:

- Managers, directors and senior officials
- Professional occupations
- Associate professional and technical occupations

Examples of job titles for the 2020/21 cohort:

- Analytical Chemist
- Audit Associate
- Chemistry Technician
- Intelligent Automation Analyst
- R&D Product Development Engineer
- Sales Executive

Further Study

Some Chemistry graduates undertake further study at master's or PhD level to increase their knowledge of one of the branches studied during their degree, such as organic, inorganic, physical or analytical chemistry. Some graduates pursue vocational qualifications such as a PGCE to train as teachers, undertake graduate entry into medicine or work as health care scientists.

Examples of institutions for the 2020/21 cohort:

- Queen's University Belfast
- University College London
- University of Bath
- University of Birmingham

More information

Find out what Bath graduates from other courses do: go.bath.ac.uk/graduate-outcomes.

More information is available about how Careers supports current and prospective students, as well as graduates from Bath: bath.ac.uk/careers.

Source: HESA Graduate Outcomes Survey for 2020/21 leavers relating to full-time UK domiciled first-degree University of Bath graduates, 15 months after leaving university.