

## Chemistry Information Sheet for entry in 2021

Chemistry is a wide-ranging science concerned with matter at the atomic and molecular scale. Important aspects are synthesis, structure, reaction mechanisms, properties, analysis and transformations of all types of materials.

Chemists are a constant source of innovation: it is hard to imagine any product introduced in recent times that did not require the creative efforts of a chemist. Chemistry underpins the conceptual framework and methodology of biochemistry and molecular medicine and is at the heart of many major industries.

Teaching and research are closely linked on the course: Oxford has one of the leading chemistry departments in the world with state-of-the-art teaching and research laboratories and world-class research in a broad range of areas including: synthesis and catalysis; medicinal and biological chemistry; sustainable energy; advanced materials; innovative measurement; and theoretical and computational chemistry. Students will be taught an exciting practical course in our recently built lab. The department has an outstanding track record in commercialising the innovative work of research staff, which has raised millions of pounds for the University.

The MChem is a four-year course and is not modular, in the sense that the subject is taught and examined as a whole, enabling us to explore the links within the subject. The core material is taken by all students, with opportunities to specialise later in the course. The fourth year (Part II) is devoted exclusively to research – a distinctive feature of Chemistry at Oxford since 1916.

### Work placements/international opportunities

The fourth year (Part II) of the course involves full-time work within an established research group, which offers the possibility for a few students to spend time at laboratories in industry or at universities abroad. Many students find work placements during vacations through the [Careers Service](#) and there are some opportunities within the department.

### A typical week

#### Years 1-3

- About ten lectures (9am and 10am)
- One or two tutorials in your college with set work to be completed in your own time
- Two afternoons of laboratory work (11am to 5pm)
- A problems class, eg a mathematics class in the first year

Tutorials are usually 2-4 students with a tutor. Class sizes may vary but would usually be no more than around 15 students and can be as small as four. Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by academic staff who are members of the department. Many are world-leading experts with years of experience in teaching and research. Some teaching may also be delivered by postgraduate students who are usually studying at doctorate level.

Part II (Year 4)

Part II (the fourth year) involves full-time work with an established research group. Devoting the fourth year exclusively to research has been a distinctive feature of Chemistry at Oxford since 1916 and this will give you research skills that are highly valued by both academics and employers. This final research year of the Chemistry course has three extended terms of 12 to 13 weeks (instead of the normal eight weeks) and is 38 weeks in total.

To find out more about how our teaching year is structured, visit our [Academic Year](#) page.

**Course structure**

YEAR 1	
<p><b>COURSES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four courses are taken:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inorganic chemistry</li> <li>○ Physical chemistry</li> <li>○ Organic chemistry</li> <li>○ Mathematics for chemistry</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Practical work</li> </ul>	<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>First University examinations: four written papers; satisfactory practical record</p>
YEAR 2	
<p><b>COURSES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core material, including courses on:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Theoretical chemistry</li> <li>○ Biological chemistry</li> <li>○ Molecular spectroscopy</li> <li>○ Synthetic chemistry</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Practical work</li> </ul>	<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>Part IA examinations: three written papers; continuous assessment of practicals</p>
YEAR 3	
<p><b>COURSES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further core material, plus advanced courses with a choice from a wide variety of options</li> <li>• Practical work</li> </ul>	<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>Part IB examinations: seven written papers; continuous assessment of practicals</p>
YEAR 4 (EXTENDED TERMS)	
<p><b>COURSES</b></p> <p>Full-time research under the supervision of a member of the academic staff</p>	<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>Part II examination: dissertation; oral examination; determination of the class of honours degree</p>

## UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD



The University will seek to deliver each course in accordance with the descriptions set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after registration. For further information, please see the [University's Terms and Conditions](#).

### Teaching delivery

At the time of writing course information sheets for 2021/22 entry, the COVID-19 pandemic was still impacting the University. A range of measures have been put in place to comply with Government legislation and guidance in response to the pandemic, and to help keep students, staff and the wider community safe.

Inevitably, some changes have been necessary to teaching and student services during the pandemic (for example, a greater amount of online teaching and examinations, and restrictions on numbers allowed to access facilities at one time).

Whatever the circumstances in the 2021/22 academic year, the University will deliver core services and learning outcomes for each course, even though the modes of delivery may change.

All course information sheets should be read in the above context, and we will keep offer holders and students regularly informed if circumstances change. Further details are available on our [website](#) and within the [Student Terms and Conditions](#).

### Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2021.

Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

Please note that while the University sets out its annual fees as a single figure, this is a combined figure for both your University and college fees. More information is provided in your [Terms and Conditions](#).

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,250
Overseas (including most EU students – see Note below)	£37,510

**Note:** Following the UK's departure from the EU, most EU students starting a course in 2021/22 will no longer be eligible to pay fees at the 'Home' rate and will instead be charged the higher 'Overseas' rate. This change will not apply to Irish nationals living in the UK or



Ireland, who will continue to be charged fees at the ‘Home’ rate for the duration of their course.

The government has issued guidance stating that EU, other EEA, and Swiss nationals who have been granted settled or pre-settled status in the UK under the EU settlement scheme may be eligible for ‘Home fee’ status and student loan support, subject to meeting residency requirements. However, until the government formally updates its fee status regulations the University is unable to confirm fee statuses for students who may qualify on this basis. We will contact you directly if we need further information from you to determine your fee status.

Please refer to the [Undergraduate fee status](#) and the [Oxford and the EU](#) pages for more information.

**Additional Fees and Charges Information for Chemistry**

Students in their fourth year undertake full-time research under the supervision of a member of the academic staff. This final year has three extended terms of 12 to 13 weeks and is 38 weeks in total, so you will need to budget for higher living costs in the final year, as you will be required to be in Oxford for longer than the standard terms. (See the [likely range of living costs](#) for an additional month in Oxford.) This final year, which is entirely devoted to research, is a unique feature of the Oxford course, and will give you research skills that are highly valued by both academics and employers.

**Living costs**

Your living costs will vary significantly dependent on your lifestyle. These are estimated to be between £1,175 and £1,710 per month in 2021-2022. Each year of an undergraduate course usually consists of three terms of eight weeks each but you may need to be in Oxford for longer. As a guide, you may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs.

**Living costs breakdown**

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£280	£400	£2,520	£3,600
Accommodation (including utilities)	£655	£790	£5,895	£7,110
Personal items	£130	£250	£1,170	£2,250

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Social activities	£45	£115	£405	£1,035
Study costs	£45	£100	£405	£900
Other	£20	£55	£180	£495
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,175</b>	<b>£1,710</b>	<b>£10,575</b>	<b>£15,390</b>

In order to provide these likely living costs, the University and the Oxford University Students' Union conducted a living costs survey to complement existing student expenditure data from a variety of sources including the UK government's Student Income and Expenditure Survey and the National Union of Students (NUS). The likely lower and upper ranges above are based on a single student with no dependants living in college accommodation (including utility bills) and are provided for information only.

When planning your finances for future years of study at Oxford beyond 2021-22, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.

### Document accessibility

If you require an accessible version of the document, please contact Undergraduate Admissions by email ([uao.comms@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:uao.comms@admin.ox.ac.uk)) or via the online form (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/ask>).

*Please note, at the time of publishing the CIS, further details regarding the availability and eligibility of financial support for some EU students with settled or pre-settled status remained outstanding. Confirmation about funding arrangements for the year abroad were also outstanding. Any updates impacting students will be published on the Oxford and the EU webpage.*