Chemistry Information Sheet for entry in 2019

Chemistry is a wide-ranging science concerned with matter at the atomic and molecular scale. Important facets are synthesis, structure, microscopic 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. A good Chemistry degree opens the door to an extensive choice of careers.

Teaching and research are closely linked: Oxford is one of the leading chemistry departments in the world with a state-of-the-art lab and international level 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. We expect to be teaching an exciting new practical course in a brand new lab from October 2018.

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, 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.

A typical week

Years 1–3: There are three terms in the Oxford academic year, each eight weeks long. Students usually arrive a week early in the first term of their first year for welcome and induction activities.

- About ten lectures, at 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.

The course is challenging but there is plenty of time for extra-curricular pursuits. 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 4. 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 8 weeks) and is 38 weeks in total. To find out more about how our teaching year is structured, visit our Academic Year page.

Work placements/international opportunities

Part II (the fourth year) involves full-time work with an established research group. There is the possibility of a few students spending time at laboratories in industry or at universities abroad. Many students find work placements during vacations – the Careers Service helps with this – and there are some opportunities within the department.

Course structure

1st year	
Courses Four courses are taken: • Inorganic chemistry • Physical chemistry • Organic chemistry • Mathematics for chemistry	**Assessment** First University examinations: Four written papers; satisfactory practical record
2nd year	
Courses Core material, including courses on: • Theoretical chemistry • Biological chemistry • Molecular spectroscopy • Synthetic chemistry • Practical work Optional supplementary subject course	**Assessment** Part IA examinations: Three written papers; continuous assessment of practicals but overall results are not calculated until the end of the 3rd year
3rd year	
Courses Further core material, plus advanced courses with a choice from a wide variety of options Optional supplementary subject course	**Assessment** Part IB examinations: Seven written papers; continuous assessment of practicals
4th year (extended terms)	
Research Full-time research under the supervision of a member of the academic staff Optional supplementary subject course	**Assessment** Part II examination: Dissertation; oral examination; determination of the class of honours degree For the most up-to-date details on assessment, please refer to the course website *For the most up-to-date details on assessment, please refer to the Chemistry website.*
The practical element of this course is currently under review. Up-to-date details on any course changes as well as options can be found on the Chemistry website.	

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.

Fees
These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2019.

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home/EU	£9,250
Islands (Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,250
Overseas	£34,678

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

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 £1,058 and £1,643 per month in 2019-20. 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.

	Per month		**Total for 9 months**	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£265	£371	£2,387	£3,342
Accommodation (including utilities)	£566	£739	£5,093	£6,655
Personal items	£122	£271	£1,098	£2,435
Social activities	£42	£126	£380	£1,138
Study costs	£40	£88	£359	£788
Other	£23	£48	£208	£432
Total	**£1,058**	**£1,643**	**£9,525**	**£14,790**

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 2019-20, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.