

Chemistry Information Sheet for entry in 2016



What is Chemistry?

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 a wide and varied range of careers.

Chemistry at Oxford

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 wide range of areas, including synthesis and catalysis, medicinal and biological chemistry, sustainable energy, advanced materials, innovative measurement and theoretical and computational chemistry.

The department has an unrivalled 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.

Years 1–3

- About 10 lectures, at 9 and 10am
- 1 or 2 tutorials in your college with set work to be completed in your own time
- 2 afternoons of laboratory work (11am to 5pm)
- A problems class, eg a maths class in the first year

The course is challenging but there is plenty of time for extra-curricular pursuits.

Year 4: Extended terms

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. In the final year of the Chemistry course, students 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. 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.

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.

1st year	
Courses Four courses are taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theoretical chemistry• Biological chemistry• Molecular spectroscopy• Synthetic chemistry Optional supplementary subject course	Assessment Part IA examinations: Three written papers
3rd year	
Courses Further core material, plus advanced courses with a choice from among a variety of options <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Optional supplementary subject course	Assessment Part IB examinations: Seven written papers; continuous assessment of practicals

4th year

Research	Assessment
<p>Full-time research under the supervision of a member of the academic staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Optional supplementary subject course	<p>Part II examination: Dissertation; oral examination; determination of the class of honours degree</p> <p>For the most up-to-date details on the Chemistry course's content and assessment, please refer to the department's website</p>

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 2016.

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU	£9,000	£0	£9,000
Islands (Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,000	£0	£9,000
Overseas	£22,515	£7,135	£29,650

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. 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 £970 and £1,433 per month in 2016-17. Undergraduate courses usually consist of three terms of eight weeks each, but 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	£265	£298	£2,384	£2,673
Accommodation (including utilities)	£469	£667	£4,221	£6,002
Personal items	£119	£244	£1,073	£2,187
Social activities	£60	£107	£539	£960
Study costs	£36	£73	£314	£661
Other	£19	£44	£197	£410
Total	£970	£1,433	£8,727	£12,894

30 October 2015