



A student guide to accreditation of chemistry degrees

www.rsc.org/accredit



Introduction

If you're thinking about going to university you'll probably spend a lot of time researching which course to study and where to go. With so many universities and degree courses to choose from, making decisions about higher education can be challenging.

The Royal Society of Chemistry accredits many degrees in the chemical sciences, in the UK and worldwide. We do this to make sure that university chemistry courses provide the quality you expect from a degree. When you choose an accredited chemistry programme, you can be confident that you are getting a high quality education, providing the knowledge and key skills you need for a successful future.

The meaning of accreditation

Accreditation means that the content and standard of the degree meet certain requirements in:

- the breadth of knowledge covered;
- the depth of knowledge gained;
- the practical skills you develop – 300 hours for a BSc, 400 hours for an MChem/MSci;
- the type and amount of project work included;
- quality of external placements;¹
- transferable skills you develop;²
- how students' work is assessed; and
- the overall quality of the programme.

We monitor the standard of accredited degree courses through these key requirements so that all you have to worry about is picking the right degree for you.

¹ if the course includes one

² see our [accreditation of degree programmes document](#) for more details



The benefits of studying an accredited course

- Increases employability and enhances your CV – shows employers that your degree met a certain high standard.
- Great for job searching abroad – global employers can recognise the quality of your degree.
- Access to professional qualifications during your career demonstrating that you are committed to your profession and that you have achieved an accredited standard of competence beyond your qualifications:
 - Easier admission to Associate (AMRSC) membership of the Royal Society of Chemistry
 - Have an advantage when applying for professional qualifications such as Chartered Chemist (CChem)³.
- External review – your course has been approved by Chemistry Staff from other universities

³ www.rsc.org/careers/cpd/practising-scientists for more information on professional qualifications

Types of accreditation

The Royal Society of Chemistry has been responsible for accrediting chemistry degrees for many years.

For undergraduate degrees, we accredit⁴:

- Bachelor's degrees (BSc)
- Integrated master's degrees (MChem and MSci)

For postgraduate degrees, we accredit:

- Master's degrees (Msc)

⁴ Accredited master's degrees fulfil the academic requirements for CChem status, while accredited bachelor's degrees partially fulfil these requirements.



The accreditation process

The process involves an external review by a team of staff from university chemistry departments, who have an international perspective on what employers look for. They visit the university and assess all aspects of the course(s). This includes viewing the facilities and speaking with students and staff. They then make a judgement on the application and decide if it meets our high standards.

We don't tell universities exactly what to teach or how to structure a degree. Accreditation is focussed on the outputs of the programme, such as the level of problem-solving, practical and transferable skills students are able to demonstrate by the end of the degree. You'll still need to think about the modules the different universities offer, as these are often quite different from place to place and the best options for you will depend on your particular interests and any future plans you have.

For a list of all the successfully accredited degree programmes visit: www.rsc.org/accredit

Need more information?

We are always happy to answer any questions. Call us on +44 (0) 1223 432316 or email the Admissions and Qualifications team at accreditation@rsc.org

