NEW
Find out about our MChem (with Industrial Placement)

Chemistry
Undergraduate Degrees 2024
The impact of chemistry on society is immense, from solving challenges in energy and climate change, food production, clean water, the development of pharmaceuticals and novel materials. Chemistry is enhancing capture and storage of energy, underpinning society’s shift to net zero and the electric vehicle revolution. Greater understanding of the chemical processes in cells enables the development of new medical treatments, whilst new synthetic routes and catalysts are being developed to make the chemical industry greener and more sustainable.

Our established undergraduate chemistry degree programmes are Royal Society of Chemistry accredited and research-led, being taught by staff who are committed to advancing the frontiers of chemistry. The modern curriculum is designed to deliver chemistry in an integrated form, rather than in the traditional silos of inorganic, organic, physical and analytical chemistry. Our purpose-built teaching and research laboratories are housed in the recently fully refurbished Chemistry Building. Here you will receive hands-on training in the fundamental techniques of modern practical chemistry.

Beyond chemistry, our degree programmes are designed to develop key transferable skills, which are so important for enhancing your career prospects in chemistry and beyond, including communication and presentation skills, and competency in mathematics and computing. Previous graduates have gone into postgraduate study, the chemical industry, teaching and a broad range of graduate-level jobs.

Three features that really set us apart are:
(i) an exceptional student experience (evidenced by our track record in the NSS);
(ii) excellent staff-student ratios and
(iii) an opportunity for all of our students to carry out genuinely novel research.

We believe the Department is a highly supportive environment committed to your success - a feature that our students often highlight is the accessibility of our academic staff. We have recently renewed our Athena SWAN Award which recognises the Department’s values and focus on people, in being inclusive and in providing opportunity and support for all our students and staff.

We welcome you to our Department!

Dr Nick Evans, Head of Department

Chemistry is a fascinating subject that we are all incredibly passionate about here at Lancaster. Often referred to as the “central science”, chemistry provides us with a unique perspective of the universe, emerging from the fundamental properties and interactions of atoms and molecules. enables us to shape the world around us, and as such, we continue to push boundaries of understanding, and to carry out research that advances knowledge and improves lives.
Flexible
degree programmes

Chemistry is often referred to as the ‘central science’, as it interfaces with the physical, environmental, and biological sciences. We have developed our degree programmes to reflect the diversity of the discipline.

Award: BSc Hons Chemistry
UCAS Code: F100
Duration: 3 years (full-time)

Award: MChem Hons Chemistry
UCAS Code: F101
Duration: 4 years (full-time)

Award: MChem Hons Chemistry (Study Abroad)
UCAS Code: F1T7
Duration: 4 years (full-time) including one year studying abroad

Award: MChem Hons Chemistry (with Industrial Placement)
UCAS Code: F102
Duration: 4 years (full-time) including one year on placement

You can view details of all our courses at lancaster.ac.uk/chemistry/study/undergraduate

More than £30 million invested in chemistry since 2012

Small class sizes and approachable academic and support staff

Flexible degree programmes

Study abroad option

Our FREE Learning Resource Pack, provides the key materials to support your studies: lab coat, eye protection, all glassware and lab equipment, lab books and online core course text books

#13 for Chemistry in the UK
Guardian League Table, 2023

#8 for student satisfaction
Complete University Guide, 2023

#9 for career prospects
The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide, 2023

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Chemical technologies enrich our quality of life by providing breakthroughs in energy, genetics, biochemistry, healthcare and medicine, materials science, forensics, nanotechnology, drug discovery and pharmaceuticals, the environment and next-generation computer hardware. Chemistry also underpins many of our everyday activities including our consumption of food, water, electricity and gas, cosmetics, cleaning products, paints and dyes.

The UK chemical and pharmaceutical industry continues to be a vital part of the UK economy, with the UK being one of the world's top global producers of chemicals and pharmaceuticals. These industries employ vast numbers of chemists in a range of roles, including in research and development, marketing, sales and management.

Chemistry graduates find employment in a broad range of careers, including pharmaceuticals, commercial research and development, academic research, product development, healthcare, medicine, finance, teaching, environmental protection, biotechnology, energy and food. A chemistry degree qualifies you for essentially all graduate careers.

For more information please visit lancaster.ac.uk/chemistry

Be part of something amazing

Every hydrogen atom in your body was created at the big bang, that means part of you is 13.5 billion years old. Study chemistry at Lancaster and discover the inner workings of the world around us.

World changing chemistry

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Vital to the UK economy

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Aidan Leigh
MChem Hons Chemistry

Studying Chemistry at Lancaster University means being a part of an inclusive and friendly student and staff collective. The ease of access to wellbeing support and study assistance makes Lancaster feel much like home. In my 2 years at Lancaster, I have thoroughly enjoyed the high number of workshop and tutorial sessions we have each week. This helps to consolidate any learning from lectures, and also allows you to build a closer relationship with Department academics. Compared to other top universities around the country, Chemistry at Lancaster has a relatively small intake, which further helps in making sure each student’s needs are well catered to.

My favourite thing about my degree is the number of laboratory hours we have each week, covering areas such as synthetic, physical and computational chemistry. This provides students with a huge breadth of knowledge and hands-on experience, perfect for pursuing a lab-based career in the future. During these sessions, a large array of ‘soft skills’ are also cultivated, such as problem solving, communication, numerical skills and timekeeping. These are all highly valued by employers, regardless of the field of work.

My favourite thing about the University is the college system, which provides another way to make lasting connections with people on different courses. There are numerous inter-college sports, which are an amazing way to make friends and enjoy your extracurricular activities at the University.
We provide the very best in modern, custom designed laboratories for both teaching and research, together with instrument suites, computer rooms, offices, and social spaces, including: specialist synthetic, physical & analytical and computational teaching labs, NMR, X-Ray diffraction, electron and atomic force microscopes, UV-Vis, IR and Raman spectrometers, a Mass spectrometry suite and a Nanoscribe microscale 3D printer.

For more information please visit lancaster.ac.uk/chemistry
Taught by the very best

To ensure that you have the best possible experience, our courses are taught by experienced, highly qualified experts, many with international reputations.

Modern chemistry skills

Science in general, and chemistry in particular is becoming increasingly multidisciplinary. We will therefore equip you with the knowledge and understanding of a broad range of science, as well as advanced subject-specific skills, to meet this need.

Our teaching is research-led, and our curriculum is explicitly developed to provide you with the skills that a modern chemistry graduate needs. As part of our commitment to teaching excellence, we have developed our degrees in conjunction with the Royal Society of Chemistry, and operate a continual course development process in response to student feedback.

An integrated approach

You will be taught chemistry as an integrated subject, emphasising the practical and theoretical skills that are important for a modern chemistry graduate and which are highly valued by employers. Our courses develop practical synthetic, characterisation, measurement and analytical skills. They also involve data analysis, mathematical and computational techniques, written and oral presentations, report-writing, literature searching and fundamental research.

Did you know?

Osmium is the densest naturally occurring element. A house brick made of it would weigh roughly as much as 56 basketballs – 32kg.

It’s elementary to a chemist!

For more information please visit lancaster.ac.uk/chemistry
As an international student I didn’t have the chance to visit the campus before starting my course. However, I was amazed by everyone’s friendliness and support in the Chemistry Department and the modern feel of the Chemistry Building. Right from the beginning, I was assigned a personal academic advisor, who provides me with academic, career and pastoral help whenever I need it. Also, there is an open door policy at the Department, which means that whenever I have a question about material from a given module or I want to discuss anything else with an academic, I can simply go to their office without arranging a meeting with them beforehand.

What I especially enjoy as part of my degree is the practicals, where I can apply the knowledge I get from the lectures and workshops. In second year, I had 8-12 hours of practicals per week where I either worked in the synthetic or analytical lab or did computer simulations in one of the computer labs. With every session, I became more confident in using various instruments or programmes.

In my second year, I had the opportunity to explore my career options during two careers modules. Also, talking to some of the staff about my future prospects convinced me that I would like to pursue a career in research. Since then, I applied for various internships advertised by the Department, and I cannot wait to hear back about the offers from the companies. Although I still haven’t finished my degree, I cannot wait for all the opportunities to broaden my knowledge of chemistry and enhance my employability with the help of the Department.

For more information please visit lancaster.ac.uk/chemistry
Your global experience

As part of our MChem course, it is possible to spend a year studying at a prestigious overseas university.

I’d never really thought about Study Abroad until I came to the Open Day and it was mentioned at the end of the speech. I looked into it a bit more and there was loads of support, so you’re not just getting thrown into this different country and having to look after yourself.

We had the opportunity to go to Australia, Canada and a couple of places in America and New Zealand. I went to Kentucky as the course there matched what I was doing here. It was a really cool place and I feel I actually got to experience the real America. I got to do a project over there and work in an American research group. I also made connections as well; I still email my supervisor who supervised my project in Kentucky. Studying abroad has meant having more skills to add to my CV – I can now say that I’m good at communicating because I’ve communicated with all these different people and I’m flexible as I’ve had to adapt to a whole different country.

I also feel like you’re building your confidence as well because you have to make new friends really quickly, and make these connections. It also made me appreciate Lancaster more, as I feel you are a bit spoiled because it’s such a good department.

In Kentucky, I did a computer-based project, where I was simulating molecules that would prevent the overcharging in batteries. It’s been this project that’s made me realise that energy storage is what I want to do.

I visited Vancouver in my year away and I could see myself living there, so I applied for a PhD at Vancouver University where I am now studying.

For more information please visit lancaster.ac.uk/chemistry

Possible destinations
USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand
(Please note: study abroad destinations are subject to availability and are not guaranteed)
Supporting you every step of the way

After a disruptive time in your education, our small group tutorials and seminars will support you throughout your studies. We have dedicated careers advisors who are approachable and always on hand, and you will receive individual supervision for your project work.

Supportive environment
We have small class sizes and excellent staff:student ratios to support your teaching and learning.

Continuous feedback
We continually provide you with academic feedback to further develop your knowledge, skills and learning.

Celebrating diversity
As a department we are all fully committed to the Athena SWAN charter, which challenges the underrepresentation and inequalities of women within science in higher education and research. In early 2022, we received an Athena SWAN Bronze Award, highlighting our commitment to promoting and celebrating inclusivity, diversity, and opportunity for all irrespective of gender or minority.

We are also highly experienced in supporting students with various disabilities and work closely with the University’s Disability Service.

Our priority is to support every student to make the most of their life and education. As part of this, the University has committed £3.7 million in scholarships and bursaries to help with fees and living costs. Visit lancaster.ac.uk/ugfinance

Degree specifics

First year

The pandemic disruptions have meant that all of you will be in a similar situation having missed sizeable amounts of laboratory practicals and having had to study in the majority of cases, independently. We have therefore restructured our teaching modules across the board, particularly in laboratory practicals, to ensure that you have all the skills that you need. In the first year you’ll study two thirds chemistry, together with one-third of a subject selected from a list of relevant topics. After the first year, your whole degree will be chemistry.

Core modules

- Atoms and Molecules
- Organic Structure
- Organic Reactivity and Mechanism
- Chemistry of the Elements
- Coordination Chemistry
- Skills for Chemists
- Spectroscopy and Analytical Chemistry
- Thermodynamics of Chemical Processes
- Chemical Reaction Kinetics
- Physical Foundations of Chemistry

Free Learning Resource Pack provides the key materials to support your studies:

- Lab coat
- Eye protection
- All glassware and lab equipment
- Lab books
- Online core course text books

The chemistry modules provide you with a broad introduction to degree-level chemistry, to ensure that you have the foundation knowledge you will need to study more advanced topics in later years of the degree, irrespective of your pre-Lancaster background. Each module consists of lectures, practical classes, seminars/workshops and tutorials.

You will develop maths and computational skills as well as theoretical and practical knowledge of synthetic, physical and analytical chemistry.

Teaching in first year takes place for 2½ terms, with subsequent examinations. The year is 50% exam and 50% coursework.

A typical first year student’s timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>BIOL100 Lecture</td>
<td>CHEM110 Lecture</td>
<td>CHEM100 Seminar</td>
<td>CHEM100 Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>BIOL100 Lecture</td>
<td>CHEM110 Lecture</td>
<td>CHEM100 Seminar</td>
<td>CHEM100 Lecture</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00</td>
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<td>CHEM110 Lecture</td>
<td>CHEM100 Seminar</td>
<td>CHEM100 Lecture</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>CHEM100 Lecture</td>
<td>BIOL100 Lecture</td>
<td>CHEM110 Lecture</td>
<td>CHEM100 Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.00</td>
<td>CHEM100 Lab Class</td>
<td>BIOL100 Lab Class</td>
<td>CHEM110 Lab Class</td>
<td>CHEM100 Lab Class</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>CHEM100 Lab Class</td>
<td>BIOL100 Lab Class</td>
<td>CHEM110 Lab Class</td>
<td>CHEM100 Lab Class</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.00</td>
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<td>BIOL100 Lab Class</td>
<td>CHEM110 Lab Class</td>
<td>CHEM100 Lab Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.00</td>
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<td>BIOL100 Lab Class</td>
<td>CHEM110 Lab Class</td>
<td>CHEM100 Lab Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.00</td>
<td>CHEM100 Lab Class</td>
<td>BIOL100 Lab Class</td>
<td>CHEM110 Lab Class</td>
<td>CHEM100 Lab Class</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Timetables: Timetables are normally available one month before registration. Although we make every effort to make the timetabling as student-friendly as possible, scheduled teaching can take place on any day of the week.

For more information please visit lancaster.ac.uk/chemistry
Fourth year

In the third year of our BSc degree, you will take a one-term research project, together with a series of taught modules that further develop chemistry knowledge and skills in more advanced areas.

For our MChem students, you will spend that time beginning to specialise in an area of advanced chemistry, whilst honing the skills you need for undertaking a more in-depth research project in your final year. The final year of the MChem degree involves a two-term research project, together with a choice between a number of optional advanced taught Master’s-level modules.

Practical work still forms a significant part of these years. However, rather than individual practical sessions that advance the skills and techniques of previous years, the practical work takes a more combined and integrated approach, where many of the skills connect and integrate in longer-term projects and programs.

For MChem (study abroad) and MChem (with Industrial Placement) third and fourth year requirements, please see the relevant course page at lancaster.ac.uk/chemistry.
Exciting research projects

In the final year of your degree, you will have the opportunity to undertake a piece of original research. We offer a broad range of projects across all our research areas.

The research projects form a major part of your studies. They provide the opportunity to work more independently, but under the guidance and supervision of our expert academic staff, who have extensive experience in chemistry research.

We are developing research programmes that cross the standard discipline boundaries, and indeed the interfaces with the other natural sciences, and that engage with government and industry.

Significant investment from both the University and the European Regional Development Fund into custom-designed facilities and equipment enables us to tackle major research challenges. This will provide you with the opportunity to use an extensive array of modern analytical and characterisation techniques.

Our research is structured around some core themes

+ Synthetic Chemistry
+ Analytical Chemistry and Spectroscopy
+ Chemical Theory and Computation
+ Biological Chemistry

The research itself seeks to address many major challenges, relating to:

+ Healthcare
+ Energy
+ Materials
+ The environment

World-leading departmental research

Dr John Griffin
Senior Lecturer in Materials Chemistry

John Griffin researches the study of structure and mechanisms in materials - in particular those with energy storage or conversion applications. John uses solid-state nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy, a powerful analytical technique that can provide detailed information about atomic-scale structure, disorder and dynamics. This has involved developing and applying NMR experiments to study materials and combining this with insight from computational calculations. In this way it is often possible to get access to information that is very difficult to obtain from other experimental approaches.

Dr Rachel Platel
Lecturer in Chemistry

Rachel Platel is interested in controlling monomer sequence in copolymerizations to prepare copolymers with defined microstructures. In particular, biocompatible and biodegradable polyesters such as polylactide and polycaprolactone are currently of great interest, largely due to their biomedical applications. Rachel’s research involves both the design of new group 3 and lanthanide complexes and their use as initiators in ring-opening polymerization reactions with combinations of a variety of cyclic ester monomers, with the aim of preparing copolymers with variable structures. She is also interested in the relationship between catalyst design and polymer structure.
I enjoyed my final year project the most as this gave me the chance to research into something completely new to me and learn about how a particular piece of chemistry is being used for research and be applied in the real world. My project involved lots of lab work which was one of my favourite things about chemistry. I also enjoyed getting the frequent opportunity to work with peers in workshops, presentations and pieces of coursework.

I got an internship role as a Laboratory Assistant at Thermo Fisher Scientific in Heysham, which I got through the Chemistry Department at Lancaster. The role primarily involved working in the research & development labs on 0-20L scale chemical reactions. I was given a brilliant insight into a real-world chemistry environment and was introduced to other aspects of the company so that they could share with me more about what the company does as a whole.

The connections between Thermo Fisher Scientific and the Chemistry Department allowed for the internship I undertook to be advertised for solely Lancaster students. I got into my current role as a result of my internship. My internship was great so I looked for vacancies at Thermo Fisher Scientific around the time I was graduating and saw the role of a Compliance Specialist being advertised with a chemistry degree being one of the requirements. Knowing I’d enjoyed my internship and having some familiarity with the company already, I applied for this position and with the help of the references I’d earned from doing the internship, I was successful and got the job.
Hello Future

Chemistry graduates are in high demand due to the many transferable skills that are developed in a chemistry degree.

Some examples of graduate careers are:

- All areas of chemical industry, ranging from multinational oil, chemical and pharmaceutical companies, to a host of smaller enterprises producing new and specialised products
- Energy providers
- Public health and environmental protection
- Research in universities, government institutions, industry and private agencies
- Teaching
- Patent agencies
- Scientific journalism
- Forensic science
- Postgraduate medicine

Graduates can also seek employment in a wide range of non-chemistry related industries, in business, commerce, finance, banking or the Civil Service.

We offer careers advice and guidance throughout your time here and beyond, as all Lancaster graduates have lifetime access to our careers service.

We have a dedicated careers group on LinkedIn. Follow the QR code below to see where some of our graduates have ended up.

Flora Antoniou
BSc Hons Chemistry

Lancaster University was one of the best choices I ever made. The consistent high rankings and University’s reputation as well as the small community were things that caught my attention when comparing Lancaster with other universities. When I came to Lancaster, I was really impressed with how friendly everyone was. It is really easy to meet new people and make friends. I was able to make new friends from my course, my college and from any societies I joined.

During my degree I was taught modules that covered different chemistry areas such as physical, analytical, computational, synthetic and this helped me realise the interest I have in organic and synthetic chemistry. Therefore, my 3rd year research project was focused on the synthesis of pyridazines, which was my favourite part of my course, as I was able to work more independently on a project. Apart from the chemistry related modules, I undertook some career modules as well, which helped me prepare for interviews and decide that I want to study for a Master’s and a PhD with expertise and focus on synthetic and organic chemistry. The laboratory experience and knowledge that I gained impacted my career positively as I was able to be accepted for a Master’s degree and also secured two internships the past two summers. The first internship was mainly computational chemistry and the second one was focused on chemical risk assessments.

The Chemistry Department at Lancaster University affected my career in a positive way and enhanced my career prospects. My time at Lancaster University has been amazing as it is a safe and friendly place to live and study and also offers academic excellence.
Entry requirements

Due to the Covid-19 disruptions, we will be as flexible as possible with A-level grades.

A-levels

BSc Hons Chemistry: Our typical offer is ABB.

MChem Hons Chemistry, MChem Hons Chemistry (Study Abroad) and MChem Hons Chemistry (with Industrial Placement): Our typical offer is AAB.

A-level Chemistry is required for all of our courses. We also typically ask for an A-level in a second science (preferably biology, mathematics or physics). The third A-level can be in any subject. We also require a pass in the chemistry practical endorsement.

Additional requirements

We require at least a grade 6 or B in GCSE Maths and a grade 4 or C in English Language. Many chemistry students are surprised by the maths content of degree-level chemistry. To prepare our students for this, all our programmes include introductory mathematics modules to cover this material. We therefore do not require A-level Maths (or equivalent), although it is useful if you have studied maths to that level.

For any other qualifications, please refer to our website lancaster.ac.uk/chem-undergrad

Making the right decision

Admissions

All applications to study on our degree programmes must be completed through UCAS, the UK Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (seeucas.com for more details).

Personal statement

We understand that the pandemic has changed everyone’s life. You therefore won’t be disadvantaged if you cannot include extra-curricular activities in your personal statement.

Choosing either a BSc or MChem

If you are uncertain whether you want to study for three or four years, bear in mind it is possible to switch between the BSc and MChem at any point during your first two years of study at Lancaster. However, this is subject to internal progression requirements; you must obtain an upper second class mark overall in your studies to be allowed to remain on the MChem programme.

Study Abroad

It is advisable that you apply for the study abroad variant of your chemistry degree through UCAS. This course is subject to higher internal progression requirement than our other degrees. You are free to switch to a Lancaster-based degree at any time.

Help from a Chemistry Unibuddy Ambassador

We recognise that this can be a stressful time, especially when you will have so many questions about universities and their departments. To help you make an informed decision, we have a number of current chemistry students who have volunteered to be available to answer any questions you might have about life and study at Lancaster, through the University’s online unibuddy platform. All you have to do is visit lancaster.ac.uk/study/chat and choose a chemistry unibuddy ambassador to chat to.

It’s your chance to ask one of our current students what life here is really like!

Experience Lancaster

Lancaster University is a diverse, varied, exciting, vibrant and close-knit community; you couldn’t ask for a better student experience.

Lancaster University is situated in a 560 acre picturesque parkland campus, just three miles from the centre of Lancaster. It offers the very best of city, countryside and coast.

On campus you will find everything you need from shops, library, student learning zone, a £20 million pound sports centre, supermarkets, pharmacy, dentist, medical centre, hair dressing salon to a variety of restaurants, bars, cafes and lots, lots more.

Lancaster is one of a small number of leading UK universities to operate a college structure. All students join one of our eight undergraduate colleges – Bowland, Cartmel, County, Furness, Fylde, Grizedale, Lonsdale and Pendle.

Take a virtual tour at lancaster.ac.uk/virtual-open-day

Keep up-to-date with all the news on

For more information please visit lancaster.ac.uk/chemistry
Getting to know the Department

Having the opportunity to get to know each other is very important to us.

Offer holder events
If you are made an offer we’ll invite you to one of our on-campus or digital offer holder events. It’s not compulsory but we highly recommend you come along to get a feel for studying chemistry at Lancaster.

On-campus events
The structure of these events provides the opportunity for you to find out more about us and what it’s like to live and study here. You will receive a presentation detailing the degree programmes and a tour of the Department and the University. You will also have the opportunity to meet with some of our current academics and students and take part in a practical chemistry session in one of our teaching labs.

Digital events
If you are unable to visit you can still join us digitally for live presentations and a tour of the Department. You will still have the opportunity to chat to staff and students.

For more information please visit lancaster.ac.uk/chemistry
Get in touch

We are passionate about our subject and are always happy to answer any questions about our degrees and the application process.

If you have any further questions then please don’t hesitate to contact the Department.

T: +44 (0) 7966 176094
E: chemistry@lancaster.ac.uk
We look forward to hearing from you.

Follow us on Social media
LancUniChem
lancasterunichem
LancasterUniChemistry

Where we are

Map of the UK and train travel times to the Lake District and other UK cities from Lancaster.

Train journey times

0 30 Mins 1 Hour 1.5 Hours 2 Hours 2.5 Hours
Lake District Manchester Liverpool York Edinburgh London

For more information please visit lancaster.ac.uk

Disclaimer

The information in this brochure relates primarily to 2024/2025 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2023. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Please see lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice for further information.