

Things to consider when going to university

Degree course options	Entry requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What qualification do I get? • What skills and qualification do I want or need at the end of my degree? Will this course help reach your goals? • What career options will I have when I've completed my degree? • Should I choose chemistry or another chemical science degree? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the entry requirements for the course? Am I likely to meet them? • Might a foundation year course be suitable for me if I don't expect to meet the requirements for the course I'd like to do? • Can I switch course mid-degree?
Life at university	Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where will I feel most comfortable? (Near home? On a campus? In a city?) • What is the background of other students on the course? • Do I like the location of the university? • What accommodation is available and for how long? • What is the University culture like? • What help is available as a disabled individual? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What expenses will I have? Books, lab coat, safety glasses, other costs? • How much will it cost me in accommodation and tuition fees? • When will I have to pay? • Will I get financial support? Are any bursaries or scholarships available?
Assessment	Practical work in the laboratory
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How and when will I be assessed? • Is there a practical exam? • What happens if I fail an exam? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will I work as an individual, in pairs or as part of a bigger group? • What kind of experiments will I do in the first year? • Will I work at my own pace or to a fixed schedule? • How do the experiments fit into the lecture course?
General teaching arrangement	Course structure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the student : lecturer/tutor ratio? • Is the style of teaching different to that in schools and colleges? If so, how? • Will the course take into account my study background and experience? • Can I get help if I find the work difficult? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the chemistry curriculum in the first year? • How many students will there be in a lecture, tutorial etc.? • What will be my total contact time with lecturers/tutors per week? • How much practical work will I do? • What is a typical student week? • What types of modules can I choose from? • Is a work placement or internship offered?
Non-contact time	Do your research
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many hours work will I be directed to do each week? • How much other work will I be expected to do? • What are the library and computer facilities like and can I access them remotely? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is my choice relevant or acceptable as training for my future career? • What do students typically do after this degree course? • What percentage of graduates gets a job on leaving university? • Is the course designed to produce researchers, industrial chemists or something else?