A future in chemistry

Find out the facts and the options open to you.
Where i work

What i do?

What i enjoy most about it?

What the 'impact' is of what i do?

What inspired me to choose my career?

How i got into it?
About you

Don’t know what you want to do? That’s ok!

First step: get to know YOU by asking yourself a few questions

☐ What do you enjoy?

☐ What’s important to you?

☐ How much science do you want in your life?

☐ How much studying do you want to do when you leave school?

☐ Have you ruled anything out? Why?
Where do you want to work?

In education?
Part of a shared-interest community, teaching courses, publishing papers

In industry?
Good salaries, deadline-driven, careers in different areas across the business

In a small company?
Fast-paced, more responsibility, learn on the job, opportunities to rise fast
Now write down:

- What you enjoy
- What’s important to you
- One or two jobs you’ve ruled out – and why
WHERE CHEMISTRY COULD TAKE YOU.
Chemistry is at the centre of everything
Everything you can see, smell, touch and taste

☐ Chemistry helps protect and clean up the environment

☐ Chemistry saves lives

☐ Chemistry feeds the world

☐ Chemistry helps solve crime

☐ Chemistry helps sort out the world’s biggest challenges
Chemistry is at the centre of everything
Everything you can see, smell, touch and taste

Energy and the environment
Chemistry is helping us to cope with increasing pressures on energy, food, water and other scarce natural resources and to live more sustainably.

Lifestyle and recreation
From skincare to sport, chemistry is all around us. Here are some of the ways that chemistry makes life more enjoyable.

Human health
Chemistry is helping to improve and maintain human health for all in a rapidly changing world.

Something different
Love chemistry but have no idea what to do with a chemistry qualification? Here's a range of people who use their chemistry skills and knowledge in unexpected ways.
Learning chemistry lets you think like a scientist

Chemistry helps you:

- Appreciate what things are made of and how they work - like understanding the ingredient list on your cereal box
- Describe and explain natural occurrences
- Have opinions on subjects in the news - such as climate change and vaccinations
- Understand scientific issues and talk about them
Career quiz

Fill in the questionnaire*

It’s just for fun!

This quiz should show that studying chemistry could take you into so many different areas of work. It’s not designed to tell you what you should or shouldn’t want to be!

*answer the questions on the next slide or on a print-out
Where could chemistry take you?

1. What sort of work do you like the sound of most?
   - A. Working with your hands
   - B. Working with numbers and data
   - C. Helping others
   - D. Problem solving
   - E. Something creative

2. What do you love doing in your spare time?
   - A. Building things, arts and crafts
   - B. Puzzles, strategy games
   - C. Meeting lots of different people
   - D. Reading the news, discussing politics
   - E. Reading books, listening to music

3. You’d think your life was a success if you:
   - A. Cured a disease
   - B. Earned a lot of money
   - C. Made a lot of people’s lives better
   - D. Fixed some of society’s biggest issues
   - E. Could express yourself

4. What’s your biggest strength?
   - A. Your attention to detail
   - B. Thinking logically
   - C. Getting on with different types of people
   - D. Working through problems
   - E. Your imagination

5. Apart from science, what subjects at school do you like most?
   - A. Art / textiles / design tech
   - B. Maths / ICT / computer science
   - C. Health and social care / sociology
   - D. History / politics / geography
   - E. English / music / media

6. Pick the word that most closely describes what you’d like the world to be in 10 years’ time:
   - A. Healthy
   - B. Prosperous
   - C. Happy
   - D. Harmonious
   - E. Radiant
## Check your answers

Check your scores and find the most relatable jobs

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<tr>
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<td>☐ Teacher</td>
<td>☐ Games designer</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Medicinal chemist</td>
<td>☐ Doctor</td>
<td>☐ Food scientist</td>
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<td>☐ Cosmetic scientist</td>
<td>☐ Vet</td>
<td>☐ Science journalist</td>
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<td>☐ Nurse</td>
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<td>☐ Material scientist</td>
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Chemical scientists are well paid

- Chemistry graduates get 15% higher starting salaries compared with the average for graduates
- Chemistry graduates have a high employment rate
- 70%+ of chemistry students enter a professional or managerial role after graduation
- Double the UK average of graduates go into further study
Learning chemistry is useful!
You’ll learn skills for being successful in the future, such as:

- Problem solving
- Computer skills
- Logical thinking
- Teamwork
- Reasoning
- Communication skills
Take chemistry and you could become...

An analytical chemist
You’ll be checking what’s in substances – for example, breath samples, or blood at a crime scene.

A lab technician
You’ll collect samples, analyse and carry out tests on chemicals, materials or products.
Take chemistry and you could become...

An associate scientist
You’ll design and develop medicines to treat diseases.

A development chemist
You’ll develop things that are made from chemical reactions, such as inks, makeup and fertilisers.
Take chemistry and you could become...

**A research chemist**
You’ll study substances to find out the best ways to make products such as new medical treatments, makeup, electrical goods, food and drink.

**An environmental chemist**
You’ll find out what’s in the air, water and soil to understand our world better and how humans affect it.
So... what else you can do with chemistry?
From teaching and writing, to the law and banking, so many employers value a chemistry qualification. One chemistry graduate even went on to be Prime Minister!

You could:
- Become a teacher
- Become a doctor
- Advise on science policy
- Analyse data for reports
- Work with animals
- Help people protect their ideas
- Sell scientific equipment
- Help solve crime
Where can you work?

You could work at a

- Company making medicines, food, energy, packaging, paint or chemicals
- Hospital
- Environmental agency
- Consultancy
- University
- Government agency
- Public health laboratory
- Testing company

Just about anywhere!
A future in chemistry

What surprised you about the jobs that are linked to chemistry? Tell the person next to you!

Now ask the same person:
“Tell me one thing that might be good for your future if you take a chemistry qualification”
Now what? Find out more!

A future in chemistry
Your career starts here

Discover your future in chemistry at our careers website rsc.li/future-in-chemistry
Find out more about careers in chemistry

Ask questions and share ideas with

- teachers
- career leaders
- me

National careers service: browse 100s of roles
nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/search-results?searchTerm=chemistry

#TeamScience: compare careers
www.teamsience.org.uk
Follow-up activity

1. Choose a classmate to work with

2. Ask your partner a couple of questions about their interests, what they’re good at, what they like at school, etc.

3. Then find them some jobs you think they’d like using:
   - [ nationalcareers.service.gov.uk ]
   - [ edu.rsc.org/future-in-chemistry/career-options/job-profiles ]