

# Chemistry And Chemical Engineering

## **Overview**

There are a wide range of options open to chemists, from lab-based roles (recruiting at a range of levels from BSc, to MChem to PhD), to roles which apply scientific understanding to work in consultancy, science communication or project management.

It’s also possible to access some roles in chemical engineering with a chemistry degree, particularly in shortage areas where employers are prepared to offer some training (although you’ll typically need further academic qualifications in the future to become a chartered chemical engineer).

## **Roles**

Each job title links through to a broad job description, salary and conditions, entry requirements, typical recruiters, and links to further useful information.

* [Analytical Chemist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/analytical-chemist)
* [Biomedical Scientist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/biomedical-scientist)
* [Chemical Engineer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/chemical-engineer)
* [Community Pharmacist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/community-pharmacist)
* [Crime Scene Investigator](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/crime-scene-investigator)
* [Forensic Scientist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/forensic-scientist)
* [Medical Science Liaison](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/medical-science-liaison)
* [Medicinal Chemist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/medicinal-chemist)
* [Pharmacologist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/pharmacologist)
* [Product/Process Development Engineer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/product-process-development-scientist)
* [Science Writer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/science-writer)
* [Teaching Laboratory Technician](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/teaching-laboratory-technician)
* [Toxicologist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/toxicologist)

You can view additional job roles by using the [Prospects](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/science-and-pharmaceuticals/graduate-jobs-in-science-and-pharmaceuticals) and [Milkround](https://www.milkround.com/advice/what-jobs-can-you-get-with-a-chemical-engineering-degree-in-the-uk) websites.

## **Building Experience**

Placements are ideal to build experience in this industry. It can help you decide what kind of job you may enjoy and gain practical experience. You could complete a placement as part of your degree or set one up yourself during the summer. For information on gaining work experience, the [Royal Society of Chemistry](https://edu.rsc.org/future-in-chemistry/career-options/work-experience) has a useful page. [Nuffield Foundation](https://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/students-teachers/nuffield-research-placements) and the [British Antarctic Survey](https://www.bas.ac.uk/jobs/work-experience-opportunities/) provide research placement opportunities.

You may wish to study further and gain a qualification that allows you to gain professional status as a [chartered engineer (CEng)](https://www.engc.org.uk/ceng) or [incorporated engineer (IEng)](https://www.engc.org.uk/IEng). Or you might want to go on to a Master’s or PhD in a particular specialism.

## **Finding Opportunities**

Check [My Jobs Online](https://reading.targetconnect.net/student/login.html?remote=true) for vacancies and visit campus career fairs and employer presentations to find out more about which employers are advertising vacancies and coming onto campus.

Becoming a student member of one of the professional bodies, such as the [Royal Society of Chemistry](https://www.rsc.org/membership-and-community/join/student-member/), can offer member benefits, talks, events and volunteering and campus ambassador opportunities, with the chance to meet industry professionals.

### Industry Jobs

[Chemistry World Jobs](https://jobs.chemistryworld.com/) | [Nature Careers](https://www.nature.com/naturecareers/) | [New Scientist Jobs](https://jobs.newscientist.com/en-gb/) | [Grad Cracker Chemistry Jobs](https://www.gradcracker.com/search/sciences-maths/chemistry-jobs) | [Grad Cracker Chemical Engineering Jobs](https://www.gradcracker.com/search/chemical-process/chemical-engineering-jobs) | Nuclear [Graduates](https://nucleargraduates.com/) | [The Chemical Engineer Jobs](https://jobs.thechemicalengineer.com/)

### Chemistry Career Information

[Royal Society of Chemistry Job Seeking](https://www.rsc.org/careers/job-seeking/) | [Career Decisions for Recently Qualified](https://www.rsc.org/careers/career-decisions/recently-qualified/) | ‘[ChemCareers YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/wwwRSCorg) | [IChemE Careers](https://www.icheme.org/careers)

### Further Study/Research

[University of Reading](https://www.reading.ac.uk/ready-to-study/study/postgraduate-study.aspx) | [Find a Masters](https://www.findamasters.com/) | [Find a PhD](https://www.findaphd.com/)

### Graduate Jobs

[prospects](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/).ac.uk | [targetjobs](https://targetjobs.co.uk/).co.uk | [milkround](https://www.milkround.com/).com | [ratemyplacement](https://www.ratemyplacement.co.uk/).co.uk | [gradcracker](https://www.gradcracker.com/search/civil-building/environment-and-sustainability-jobs).com

## **Exploring Further**

[UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres](https://www.sciencecentres.org.uk/) (sciencecentres.org.uk) – a useful list of science centres you could approach for work experience or speculative job hunting as a science communicator, plus a jobs and vacancy board.

The skills and knowledge you’ve developed in your degree will be valuable in a wide range of roles and sectors. If you’re thinking of looking further afield but aren’t sure where to start, why not [book an appointment](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Careers/Advice-and-development/MyJobsOnline) with one of our Careers Consultants? Remember, graduates can use the Careers Centre for up to two years after they graduate.

Explore our [Careers Blog](https://blogs.reading.ac.uk/careers/) for more industry guidance and useful careers advice!