

Programme Specification

MSc in Chemical Research (full-time)

PFTZCHEMRSHM

MSc in Chemical Research (part-time)

PPTZCHEMRSHM

For students entering in 2024/25

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	MSc in Chemical Research (full-time) - 1 years MSc in Chemical Research (part-time) - 2 years
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September / January
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Chemistry

Programme information and content

This programme aims to provide a flexible course that enables you to acquire specialist research techniques and expertise in your chosen area of Chemistry. You will be trained to undertake practical and theoretical research in your specialist area of chemistry with guidance from an experienced researcher. This necessitates that you will be able to establish the extent of published knowledge in the chosen field, understand and summarise that knowledge and be able to report formally, both orally and in writing. In addition, you will be provided with a solid theoretical grounding of important concepts associated with your chosen research area and will be provided with training in relevant database searching skills. The ultimate aim of the programme is to prepare you for a career in Research and Development, or for taking a higher degree by research.

Programme Learning Outcomes - MSc in Chemical Research (full-time)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

Learning outcomes	
1	Demonstrate advanced knowledge about a specialised area of chemical research, and its application, impact and relevance in a real-world context.
2	Critically review and analyse the literature associated with a specialised area of chemical research.
3	Identify, tackle and solve complex problems by drawing on the existing literature and discussing research with colleagues.
4	Accurately and critically interpret and analyse data to generate solutions to complex problems.

5	Independently plan and execute a research project in a specialised area of chemistry, including the demonstration of effective practical and investigative skills, and appropriate selection and application of research methodology.
6	Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills, taking into account the intended audience and format of delivery, including discussing research in the context of the wider literature.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information

The programme comprises 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
CHMRP1	MSc Chemical Research Project	140	M
CHMRS1	MSc Research Methods and Skills	20	M

The remaining 20 credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Chemistry, Food and Pharmacy, or from an approved list of modules from across the University.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme can be taken part-time over two years. In the first year of study, a student will normally be required to complete an optional module totalling 20 credits and start the compulsory modules CHMRP1 and CHMRS1. In the second year of study, a student will normally be required to complete the compulsory modules and any remaining optional modules. The programme may not be completed over more than two years.

Placement opportunities

The nature of the course does not provide scope for spending time abroad or in industry.

Study abroad opportunities

The nature of the course does not provide scope for spending time abroad or in industry.

Optional modules

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional

modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery

You will be taught throughout the programme by highly research-active staff who are able to ensure that you learn about current specialist chemistry research. Teaching is organised in modules that may involve a combination of lectures and tutorials, supporting you to develop your existing chemistry knowledge and skills in order to achieve deeper levels of understanding, allowing you to analyse, evaluate and synthesize ideas. You will be encouraged to become an integral part of the relevant research group(s) within the department. Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

Most taught modules will be assessed by a mixture of examination and continual assessment, as defined in each module description. See each module description for the exact assessment requirements. The remainder of the course assessment will come from the written dissertation and viva voce exam, which will be based on the research project.

Progression

N/A

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction
60 - 69% Merit
50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard
0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Masters Degree

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree:

Award of a Master's degree

- (i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 180 credits
- (ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits
- (iii) not more than 20 credits with a mark below 40%
- (iv) a mark of 50% or more for the Dissertation

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following **further** conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits

AND

A mark of at least 60% in the dissertation

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% in at least 90 credits

AND

No marks below 40.

For Postgraduate Diploma

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

- (i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits
- (ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits
- (iii) not more than 20 credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40.

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40.

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits

Additional costs of the programme

Costs of the research project (CHMRP1) will be covered by the research expenses included in the offer letter. Where applicable, core textbooks recommended for student purchase may cost around £20 to £30 per module; there may be other books/resources which you would find it convenient to buy. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A wide range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks, more specialist studies, and electronic resources, are available through the library. Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost per A4 page of £0.05 (black and white) and £0.30 (colour). Students will be required to submit two soft-bound copies of the MSc dissertation (typically 80-100 pages).

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. The estimates were calculated in 2023.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

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1 August 2023

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