Chemistry for All

‘Chemistry for All’ is a five year study sponsored by the Royal Society of Chemistry targeted at identifying the most effective approaches to widening participation in chemistry. The University of Reading in partnership with the University of Southampton is one of four university teams selected by the Royal Society of Chemistry to deliver innovative programmes of activities to students as they progress through from Year 8 to Year 12.

Each university team is working with six local schools with historically low university participation rates. Our partner schools are: Costello School and Cranbourne School (Basingstoke), John Madejski Academy, Prospect School and Reading Girls School, (Reading) and Wexham School (Slough). The Reading-Southampton team are delivering a programme of activities which includes demonstration lectures, after-school clubs, careers sessions, industry visits, chemical challenges, community events and teacher CPD all designed to develop students’ interest and skills in chemistry and to enhance students’ understanding of the wide variety of career choices available to chemists and the various qualification routes available. Activities are designed by the university and delivered by the project team and enthusiastic university student ambassadors and STEM ambassadors. We are also developing links with professional chemists from a range of chemistry-based companies to both enhance the activities and broaden students’ knowledge of possible career opportunities and routes to these opportunities.

Other universities participating in the project are Liverpool John Moores University, Nottingham Trent University and Warwick University (recently withdrawn). The educational research for the project is being conducted by the University of London, Institute of Education.