



University of  
**Sheffield**

Chemistry

careers guide.

Shape your future  
from day one.

**Be Sheffield**

**Made.**

## More than a chemistry degree.

**Chemistry graduates do lots of different things after their degrees, inside and outside science. In this careers guide, you can find out where University of Sheffield chemists have gone after graduation, and how the skills, support and opportunities you'll get at university will help you secure the right job for you.**



### **Develop the skills employers need.**

By deciding to study chemistry, you're already off to a great start. As you train during your degree, you'll build a strong set of transferable skills that employers are looking for, including:

- ▶ analytical and creative problem-solving skills
- ▶ research and report writing
- ▶ data handling skills
- ▶ team working, presentation and other communication skills
- ▶ leadership skills and project management
- ▶ time management, planning and organisation

That's on top of all the scientific knowledge and skills that you'll gain from our expert scientists.

## Helping you get to where you want to go.

Along the way, you'll find out more about yourself and what you'd like to do. There's support available at every step, including:

- ▶ Dedicated careers and skills development modules built into the curriculum from year one
- ▶ Annual careers day with Sheffield chemistry graduates and employers
- ▶ CV and application workshops
- ▶ Mock assessment centres and practice interviews
- ▶ Placement year support
- ▶ Career Connect: our online platform for jobs and placement vacancies
- ▶ mySkills app: keep track of your achievements and skills development throughout your time at Sheffield
- ▶ eMentor scheme: talk to previous placement year students and recent graduates about their experience and successes
- ▶ One-to-one appointments for specialist guidance
- ▶ Careers fairs
- ▶ Employer events, networking sessions and lectures including talks from alumni

**“The challenging nature of a chemistry degree has encouraged me to develop perseverance, resilience, and diligence. I have also developed my time management and organisational skills from experiences both in undergraduate and research laboratories.”**

Will Mulcrone, Chemistry MChem

We want you to leave university ready for the future you want so that, when the time comes, you can present confidently and with evidence about your skills, experiences and personal strengths on your CV, in applications and at job interviews.

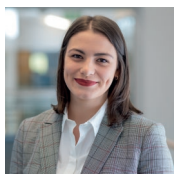
You won't be on your own once you finish your degree either – the University Careers Service will support you for as long as you need them after graduation.

# What can I do with a chemistry degree?

**As a chemistry graduate from the University of Sheffield you'll have lots of options open to you.**

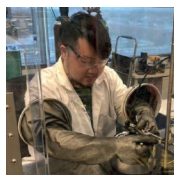
Employers hire our graduates because of their ability to plan projects, analyse data and solve problems. The ones who stay in the lab often work on global challenges like climate change and antibiotic resistance, or help to develop innovative new technologies and processes. Others go on to great careers at cutting-edge start-up businesses, major companies, charities and the Civil Service.

Where could your degree take you?



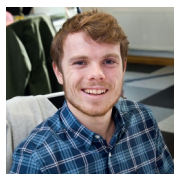
**Sarah Davidson**  
Chemistry with a  
Year in Industry MChem

After her degree, Sarah joined the technical graduate scheme at chemical company Croda and secured a role as Group Sustainability Co-ordinator.



**Zhiheng Song**  
Chemistry BSc

After moving from China to complete his undergraduate chemistry degree in Sheffield, Zhiheng then went to the USA to start a PhD at Drexel University in Philadelphia.



**Rory Jones**  
Chemistry BSc

After graduating, Rory put the data handling skills from his chemistry degree to use as a Product Manager at education technology start-up Tutorful, based here in Sheffield.

## Applying chemistry

Chemists make things. Some of the biggest employers of our students are pharmaceutical companies such as GSK and AstraZeneca, where chemists develop new medicines, and consumer goods companies such as Unilever and Reckitt, who are behind many brands you'll recognise on supermarket shelves. Graduates also go to chemical companies such as Croda and Scott Bader, to create products that are central to many industries.

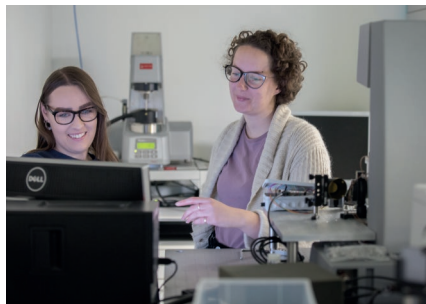
And the science industry doesn't only employ chemistry graduates in lab-based roles. These companies also need graduates who understand science to work in communications, market research and business development roles.

## Beyond chemistry

Sheffield is a World Top 100 University, and a good degree from a great university can take you far, whatever you want to do. We have graduates using their scientific minds in everything from finance to marketing to computer programming.

## Further study

If you're interested in postgraduate study, we'll help you to consider your options so you can specialise in an area you're fascinated by, learn new skills, or change direction. Some of our graduates choose to progress onto a PhD with the goal of becoming a researcher. Others begin postgraduate training in areas such as drug discovery, nanotechnology and renewable energy.



### Example job titles and employers

- ▶ **Account Manager,**  
SCIAD Communications
- ▶ **Associate Professor of Drug Discovery,**  
University College London
- ▶ **Chief Editor,**  
Nature Reviews Chemistry
- ▶ **Head of Chemistry,**  
Bourne Grammar School
- ▶ **Group Sustainability Coordinator,** Croda
- ▶ **Professor of Chemistry,** University  
of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA
- ▶ **Research and Development Chemist,**  
Cameleon Coatings
- ▶ **Research and Development Purification  
Scientist,**  
Lonza Pharma and Biotech
- ▶ **Senior Scientist,** Sygnature Discovery
- ▶ **Senior Scientist,** AstraZeneca
- ▶ **Teacher in Chemistry,**  
Cardiff University

## Opportunities to enhance your CV.

**Graduation might seem a long way off but it's never too early to start thinking about how you can gain additional skills and experience to make yourself stand out from the crowd.**

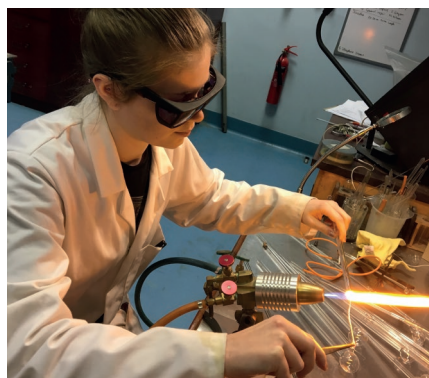


Josh did his placement at the science company Merck KGaA in Germany.

## Work placements

A placement is a great opportunity to test out a career path that you're considering – whether that's within the field of chemistry or applying your transferable skills in a business setting. It'll give you experience of applying for jobs as well as interview practice, and will make you stand out once you graduate. You can do this as a recognised part of your degree with our Industrial Placement Year courses.

Our students have previously completed their placements with organisations including GSK, Reckitt and Scott Bader here in the UK, Merck KGaA in Germany and Huntsman Corporation in Belgium.



Jasmine did a summer project on the effects of solvents on chemical reactions.

## Research placements

If you're considering a research career, a great way to get additional experience is to join the Sheffield Undergraduate Research Experience scheme. This gives you a bursary to spend six weeks working with one of our world-class research groups over the summer break. You'll be able to get first-hand experience of designing and carrying out a research project, and time to work out if a career in research is right for you.

## Go global



Lewis spent his year abroad at McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada.

Spending time studying abroad is a great way to develop transferable skills. Our courses offer international opportunities, from spending a full year studying abroad at another institution, to attending an international summer school on a topic of your choice.

Employers are quick to recognise the personal growth that students go through when they study abroad, and that graduates who took this option can offer a fresh perspective.

## Jobs and volunteering



Students volunteering at Discovery Night as part of Science Week.

Outside of your studies, there are clubs and societies you can join, committee and student rep roles you can go for, and lots of opportunities to volunteer with local organisations and gain extra skills and experience. Sheffield has plenty of part-time work opportunities too. It all adds to your CV.

Many students choose to work with us to develop their science communication skills, by running science sessions for local school children and events for the public. It's a great way to build your confidence and make new connections.

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**“I have developed excellent problem-solving and communication skills, and have been able to use the technical skills I have acquired as a chemistry student at outreach demonstration sessions.”**

Soneni Ndlovu, MChem Chemistry with Year in Industry and student ambassador

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## Get down to details.

Because we want to keep our carbon footprint down,  
there's a lot we haven't included here.  
Find us online to learn more.

[www.sheffield.ac.uk/chemistry/undergraduate](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/chemistry/undergraduate)  
[www.sheffield.ac.uk/study/career](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/study/career)  
[www.youtube.com/sciencesheffield](http://www.youtube.com/sciencesheffield)

[chemistry-admissions@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:chemistry-admissions@sheffield.ac.uk)



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