We use cookies to ensure that we deliver the best user experience of our website. If you would like to, you can change your cookie settings at any time. Continue

Chemistry with a Modern Language MSci

Details

Can you see yourself working abroad or using a foreign language at some point in your career? As the world becomes smaller and boundaries dissolve, such opportunities will be increasingly available for the next generation of scientists. If you enjoy languages, but your main interest lies with chemistry, then our Chemistry with a Modern Language, which has a 96% student satisfaction rating, programme might be for you.

You can currently choose to study one of five languages at Birmingham: **French**, **German**, **Japanese**, **Mandarin** or **Spanish**. Three different three-year streams are available for students entering either as beginners, at GCSE standard, or at A-level standard.

Course Structure

Each year contains 120 credits of taught material, which is delivered in modules that are typically worth 10 or 20 credits.

In the first three years, you will take 60 credits of core chemistry courses, which cover the fundamental aspects of the subject. These courses include a significant practical component, which not only allows us to develop your practical skills and techniques in a range of experiments, but also to consolidate the theory you will have covered in associated lectures.

You will also take 20 credits of language modules in Years 1–3, which develop both communication skills and cultural awareness. These courses are delivered by staff based in the University's **Centre for Modern Languages (/schools/lcahm/departments/languages/index.aspx)** .

The remaining 40 credits comprise modules designed to support these core courses and include optional chemistry modules, mathematics courses, laboratory modules, as well as courses which focus on communications skills and employability.

There is significant flexibility in your fourth and final year, as you choose 40 credits of taught modules from a range of courses pitched at the cutting edge of the discipline. A major research project makes up the remaining 80 credits. For many students, their final-year project is the most exciting and enjoyable part of their degree and often influences the career pathway they choose to follow after graduating.

This degree programme does **not** require you to spend time abroad. However should you wish to spend some time at a foreign university, for example to carry out a Summer research project, we can make enquiries on your behalf using the contacts, we have set up through our **Chemistry with Study Abroad programme (F106) (/undergraduate/courses/chemistry/chemistry-study-abroad-msci.aspx)** .

First year

In Year 1, you will take **core modules** in the traditional sub-disciplines of **inorganic**, **organic**, **analytical** and **physical chemistry**, all of which include an extensive laboratory work programme as well as 20 credits of your chosen **modern language**.

Those of you who have A-level maths at grade B or higher will choose from a range of non-chemistry **option courses**. Particularly popular options include 'The Cosmic Connection,' delivered by the School of Physics and Astronomy, and 'Good brain – Bad brain,' delivered by the Department of Pharmacology.

Those of you who do not have A-level maths – don't worry! We provide an **introductory maths** course in Semester 1, which you take in place of the option course. This course will bring you up to speed with the common mathematical techniques needed for chemistry. In Semester 2, everyone comes together to take **Numerical Methods**. In this more advanced course, you will begin to apply your mathematical skills to chemical problems. Both maths courses have been designed and are delivered by staff from Chemistry, which ensures you are equipped with those skills you need to tackle the more physical and theoretical aspects of our courses.

Second year (contributes 20% to overall degree mark)

In Year 2, you will build on material from your first year as we employ a combination of lectures and practicals to further your understanding of the fundamental aspects of chemistry. In addition to core courses in organic, inorganic and physical chemistry, you will continue to develop your language skills.

Third year (contributes 40% to overall degree mark)

In Year 3, core chemistry modules in inorganic, organic and physical chemistry are accompanied by advanced classes in your chosen modern language. An advanced laboratory course will also prepare you for the major research project that you will undertake in your fourth year.

Fourth year (contributes 40% to overall degree mark)

You will study just chemistry in this, your final, year during which, significant flexibility allows you to specialise in a particular sub-discipline should you wish. You will choose from a range of courses that reflect the state-of-the-art of the discipline, which not only allows us to showcase the cutting-edge research interests of the School but also ensures that you are aware of the latest challenges in this rapidly advancing subject.

In addition to 40 credits of taught chemistry modules, you will join one of the School's research groups, and become a member of the Research School as you undertake a **major research project** (worth the remaining 80 credits). You will work closely with your project supervisor to tailor your project to your particular interests and ensure you develop those research skills that you feel will be most beneficial to you after completing your degree.

Generic skills-training, focusing on transferable skills and employability, is embedded throughout the course from the outset and will ensure that you are equipped with the ICT, presentation, team-working and problem-solving skills, which are seen as crucial by employers.

MSci or BSc? The first two years of this MSci course are interchangeable with, and identical to, our corresponding **BSc programme (F1R9) (/undergraduate/courses/chemistry/chemistry-language-bsc.aspx)** , which means you can delay your final choice of degree (MSci or BSc) until the end of Year 2. MSci study is dependent upon performance: you will need a 60% mark in Year 2 in order to remain on the MSci programme

Other options

- **Chemistry undergraduate degree courses - School of Chemistry (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/chemistry/undergraduate/undergraduate-degree-courses.aspx)**

Related links

- **School of Chemistry undergraduate degree scholarships (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/chemistry/undergraduate/scholarships.aspx)**
- **Frequently asked questions (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/chemistry/undergraduate/faq.aspx)**

Why study this course

Chemists at Birmingham adopt a broad, multi-disciplinary outlook to their subject, which is vital if we are to solve the problems of the 21st Century in healthcare, medicine, sustainability and the environment. The School has a leading research rating and is committed to excellence in teaching: your lecturers are not only experts in their fields but also passionate about chemistry and committed to inspiring you!

The unique feature of this particular four-year, single-honours Chemistry MSci course is the opportunity to improve your modern language skills at the same time as studying chemistry. It is relatively unusual for university graduates to have expertise in a science and also be fluent in a modern language. Graduating with a Chemistry with a Modern Language degree will therefore help you to stand out from the crowds when it comes to applying for a job; indeed, global corporations who have a presence outside of the UK will likely view a bilingual applicant in a very favourable light.

Read more about why you should **study Chemistry at Birmingham (/schools/chemistry/undergraduate/why-chemistry-birmingham.aspx)** .

Modules

Each year contains 120 credits of taught material, delivered in modules that are typically worth 10 or 20 credits.

Core courses (60 credits in Years 1–3) are taken by all students enrolled on both single honours and major/minor degree programmes and cover those fundamentals of the subject that we deem essential. These courses include a significant practical component, which not only allows you to develop your practical skills and techniques, but also to consolidate the associated theory from your lectures.

You will also take 20 credits of language modules in Years 1–3, with the remaining 40 credits comprising modules designed to support the core chemistry courses and include optional chemistry modules, mathematics courses and laboratory modules, as well as courses which focus on communications skills and employability.

You study just chemistry in Year 4, taking 40 credits of taught material from a wide selection of courses pitched at the cutting edge of the subject. A major research project accounts for the remaining 80 credits.

Detailed module descriptions are located on the **course breakdown (/schools/chemistry/undergraduate/course-modules.aspx)** page on the School of Chemistry website.

Fees and funding

Standard fees (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/courses/fees/standard) apply
Learn more about **fees and funding (/undergraduate/fees/loans.aspx)**
Scholarships

Learn more about the University of Birmingham's **scholarships and awards (/undergraduate/fees/funding/index.aspx)** and those offered by the **School of Chemistry (/schools/chemistry/undergraduate/scholarships.aspx)** .

Entry requirements

Number of A levels required: 3

Typical offer: AAB

Required subjects and grades: Chemistry; one (or more) from Biology, Physics, Mathematics and Further Mathematics is highly desirable but not essential. If you are not taking a modern language at A-level, you must also have a minimum grade A at GCSE level (or equivalent) in a modern language.

General Studies: and Critical Thinking not accepted. However, a good performance may be taken into account if you fail to meet the conditions of the offer

International Baccalaureate Diploma: Typical offer 34–35 points including Chemistry at HL. One or more additional science subjects at HL is advantageous. A minimum of 5 in SL English and 4 in SL Maths is required for those students who do not have a minimum of grade C in English at GCSE and of grade B in Maths at GCSE.

Additional information:

Other qualifications are considered – learn more about **entry requirements (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/requirements)**

International students:

Learn more about **international entry requirements (/International/students/country/index.aspx)** .

Depending on your chosen course of study, you may also be interested in the Birmingham Foundation Academy, a specially structured programme for international students whose qualifications are not accepted for direct entry to UK universities. Further details can be found on the **foundation academy web pages (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/foundation-academy/Pathways/index.aspx)** .

How to apply

Apply through UCAS at **www.ucas.com (http://www.ucas.com)**
Learn more about **applying (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/courses/apply)**

Key Information Set (KIS)

Key Information Sets (KIS) are comparable sets of information about full- or part-time undergraduate courses and are designed to meet the information needs of prospective students.

All KIS information has been published on the Unistats website and can also be accessed via the small advert, or 'widget', below. On the **Unistats website (http://unistats.direct.gov.uk)** you are able to compare all the KIS data for each course with data for other courses.

The development of Key Information Sets (KIS) formed part of HEFCE's work to enhance the information that is available about higher education. They give you access to reliable and comparable information in order to help you make informed decisions about what and where to study.

The KIS contains information which prospective students have identified as useful, such as student satisfaction, graduate outcomes, learning and teaching activities, assessment methods, tuition fees and student finance, accommodation and professional accreditation.

Related links

Chemistry undergraduate degree courses - School of Chemistry (/schools/chemistry/undergraduate/undergraduate-degree-courses.aspx)

School of Chemistry undergraduate degree scholarships (/schools/chemistry/undergraduate/scholarships.aspx)

School of Chemistry undergraduate degrees - frequently asked questions (/schools/chemistry/undergraduate/faq.aspx)

School of Chemistry undergraduate brochure (pdf 1.5 MB) (/Documents/college-eps/chemistry/brochures/chemistry-undergraduate-brochure.pdf)

© University of Birmingham 2014