

Course Information Document: Undergraduate

For Academic Year 2025/26

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	Master in Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry (MChem) Master in Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry (MChem) with International Year (see Annex for details) Master in Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry (MChem) with Work Placement Year (see Annex for details)
Award type	Single Honours (Masters)
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 7
Normal length of the programme	4 years; 5 years with either the International Year or Placement Year between years 2 and 3
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	All Master in Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry (MChem) combinations, including the 'with International Year' and 'with Industrial Placement Year' options, are fully accredited by the Royal Society of Chemistry.
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	UK students: Fee for 2025/26 is £9,535* International students: Fee for 2025/26 is £17,700** The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee The fee for the Industrial placement year is calculated at 20% of the standard year fee

How this information might change: Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

* These fees are regulated by Government. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study in response to changes in government policy and/or changes to the law. If permitted by such change in policy or law, we may increase your fees by an inflationary amount or such other measure as required by government policy or the law. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

** These fees are for new students. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an

inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

2. What is an Integrated Masters programme?

The Master's level programme described in this document allows you to focus exclusively on the study of Chemistry and Medicinal Chemistry. Integrated master's awards are delivered through a programme that combines study at a bachelor's degree with honours with study at master's level. As such, you will graduate with an integrated master's degree after a single four-year programme of study. The Integrated Masters programme described in this document will allow you to gain enhanced skills and knowledge to master's level.

3. Overview of the Programme

Medicinal Chemistry focuses on the search for new drugs to treat a wide range of human ailments from viral infections to cancer. This programme will provide you with an understanding of the complex biological and chemical problems that are involved in the design and synthesis of novel therapeutic agents. It also explores the pivotal roles of chemistry and medicinal chemistry as tools to address global, economic and environmental challenges, threading sustainability and industrial chemistry through traditional chemical principles and theories. The Medicinal Chemistry specialism applies a strong grounding in chemistry towards the medicinal chemistry principles required to solve problems at the interfaces of chemistry, biochemistry, molecular biology and pharmacology. The MChem programme has a focus on your development as an independent researcher. You will have opportunities for individual advanced project work, collaborative learning, work and educational placements, and to explore frontier topics guided by our world-leading researchers.

In the first two years of study, you will be taught the core concepts that underpin modern chemistry, integrating the traditional branches of inorganic, organic, physical and analytical chemistry. Relevant mathematical concepts and skills are taught fully within their chemical context and do not assume knowledge beyond GCSE Maths. Your learning will be supported through interactive teaching, workshops and small group activities as well as frequent opportunities to apply key concepts in laboratory classes and other practical exercises. From the outset, you will explore how chemistry interfaces with biology, leading to an in-depth exploration of the interfaces of medicinal chemistry as the degree progresses. In your third year and fourth year you will complete your education as a medicinal chemist, developing a toolkit of chemistry and medicinal chemistry skills, including drug design, chemical synthesis and an understanding of the pharmaceutical industry. You will be able to tailor your learning, choosing topics of interest, including some at the forefront of modern chemical sciences research. You will also conduct an in-depth literature review, giving you the opportunity to delve into an area of your own personal interest which you may connect to your research project, or diversify into another area of medicinal chemistry.

Your development as an independent researcher is a central theme throughout the degree. Group-based investigative project work in 1st and 2nd year provides a structured approach to developing your skills and expertise. An individual independent research project at 3rd year prepares you for the highlight of your whole degree: a year-long research project. This MChem project will advance knowledge and tackle a new question in an area of medicinal chemistry, working towards contributing your own findings to the international scientific literature in your field. Both of your individual projects can be aligned to your own interests and career goals, allowing you to focus and fully immerse yourself at the forefront of medicinal chemistry, develop your skills of scientific inquiry and make your mark as a researcher.

You will have hands-on access throughout your degree to sector-leading laboratory facilities and gain individual, practical confidence using specialist computational tools and research-grade instrumentation. Employability and transferrable skills are embedded and developed throughout the curriculum with problem-solving, communication, independent learning and inquiry, as well as dedicated career-focused sessions and workshops. Your understanding and skills will be assessed through a diverse range of authentic activities which will develop your specialist and transferrable skills and prepare you for your future career. You will receive personalized and comprehensive feedback and formative opportunities on assessed work in various formats. If you take advantage of the full range of opportunities the programme offers, you will have acquired the knowledge and skills to confidently pursue a fulfilling and impactful career and make your mark on the world.

4. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are to:

- A depth and breadth of fundamental and applied knowledge from across the chemical sciences, both through guided learning and by creating new knowledge through scientific research.
- Professional skills and competencies in practical chemistry, instrumental analysis and safe working practices, and the design and execution of original research.
- An understanding of the intersection of chemistry with sustainability, ethical practices and wider societal challenges.
- Transferrable skills in problem solving, communication, digital tools and independent open-ended scientific investigation applied to an original scientific research project.

5. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to demonstrate:

- **A broad range of chemical concepts spanning the full breadth of chemistry** (Chemistry Knowledge).
- **How chemical concepts can be applied to solve problems** (Problem Solving).
- **The role of chemistry in sustainability and an awareness of the impact of chemistry in current global challenges** (Sustainability and Global Awareness).
- **The application of chemistry to interdisciplinary areas with a particular focus on medicinal chemistry** (Interdisciplinarity).

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- **Work safely and ethically, managing documentation including COSHH and risk assessments** (Safety and Ethics).
- **Demonstrate practical competence in laboratory techniques including operation of a range of instrumentation** (Practical Competencies).
- **Formulate, test and refine chemical hypotheses through scientific investigation** (Scientific Investigation).
- **Process, transform and critically evaluate qualitative and quantitative datasets** (Data Literacy).

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- **Conduct research, engaging with chemical literature to source, interpret, collate and cite relevant information** (Research Skills).
- **Demonstrate numeracy and digital skills, working confidently with mathematical concepts and employing a range of computational tools including specialist scientific software** (Numeracy and Digital Skills).
- **Communicate chemistry and medicinal chemistry information and ideas through oral and written methods as appropriate to a range of different audiences** (Scientific Communication).
- **Display reflective practice and professionalism through self-direction and collaborative work** (Reflective Practice and Professionalism).

The development of these programme learning outcomes, as appropriate for each level of study, is described in the Learning Outcome tables in section 8.

[Keele Graduate Attributes](#)

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social and ethical responsibility**. You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

6. How is the programme taught?

Our chemistry programme is delivered with an emphasis on live, in-person, interactive sessions, supported by

online materials on the Keele Learning Environment (KLE) allowing flexible engagement. Students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Academic Mentors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

1st Year:

Chemistry content is predominantly taught through **interactive lectures** consisting of a mixture of presentation and interactive activities. Activities include guided problem solving, worked examples and student response polls facilitated by digital tools such as mentimeter or padlet. Global awareness and sustainability goals are drawn out through elements of **group discussion** incorporated in teaching sessions and through discussion boards. Lectures are supported by **workshops** and **problem classes** incorporating **small group learning** approaches such as **Team Based Learning (TBL)**. **e-Portfolios** are used to scaffold the development of problem solving and information literacy skills with **reflective exercises** helping you learn to make effective use of **feedback**. **Practical classes** include weekly **laboratory sessions** following scripted labs to teach fundamental practical skills and **PC labs** to enable hands-on training in information retrieval, data analysis and programming techniques. You will apply these skills to collaborative open ended **investigative practical work** towards the end of the year.

2nd Year:

Teaching styles continue from first year with **interactive lectures** supported by **problem classes**, **workshops**, **TBL sessions** and **tutorials**. **Practical classes** include scripted **laboratory sessions** developing more advanced techniques and hands-on experience of a range of analytical instruments. **Investigative group work** is developed through analytical and drug design projects. Professional skills are developed with a focus on industrial chemistry and **reflective development** of employability skills including an industrial themed **group project**. There is a greater emphasis on the use of scientific software in **PC labs** to support chemical understanding and the processing of data, including statistical consideration of accuracy and predictive algorithms in drug design.

From second year, you are also invited to attend our **Chemical Sciences Seminar Series** in which you will experience speakers from academia and industry presenting material at the forefront of current scientific knowledge.

3rd Year:

A highlight of our 3rd year is the independent research project. Rather than scripted labs, you will collaborate with an academic member of staff to complete approx. 80 hours of **project work**, spread over both semesters. Laboratory work takes place in teaching labs with expert supervision. You will also complete a literature review, and you can choose to combine your research project and literature review in one specialised area of medicinal chemistry, or to differentiate and explore a different bespoke topic for your literature review.

Further practical work is taught through **laboratory sessions** and **PC labs** involving hands-on experience of a wide range of research grade analytical instruments. **Interactive lectures** and **seminars** form the basis of most taught content, with **workshops** or **TBL sessions** typically held at the end of each topic. Fewer contact hours provide more time for **independent work**, and the ability to specialise in your preferred areas of chemistry through a series of assessment items allowing a bespoke choice of subject. Choice is also available within modules, with the Topics module offering a wide choice of topics within the module structure.

4th Year:

The majority of your MChem year is devoted to your **independent research project**, in which you will work in a collaborative research environment. Three days each week are devoted to project work, and regular meetings with your project supervisor will support you in planning and reviewing progress. Alongside your project you will participate in a series of **research skills seminars**, training you in you in aspects of chemical research and in advanced analytical techniques, training you to present data and scientific arguments to publication standard.

In addition to project work, you will study a range of synoptic and advanced chemistry topics. In the first semester, you will consolidate your understanding of the depth and breadth of chemistry. **Seminar** style sessions will draw together themes in chemistry, with an emphasis on applied problem solving. In the second semester a choice of topics incorporating research at the forefront of chemistry and medicinal chemistry are offered. The teaching style for these sessions is also seminar based, incorporating preparative work based on topical research papers.

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Academic Mentors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

7. Teaching Staff

A dynamic group of staff with a broad range of expertise teach on the Chemistry and Medicinal Chemistry

programme and bring a wealth of experience acquired through research and scholarship across a diverse set of areas. Some current staff members are internationally recognised leaders in their field and manage research groups comprising postgraduate research students and postdoctoral researchers, some of whom contribute to the teaching on the programme. Reflecting the diversity of expertise, some staff members also contribute to the Forensic Science and Physics programmes at Keele.

Many current teaching staff hold, or are working towards an accredited Higher Education Teaching qualification and many are Fellows (FHEA) or Senior Fellows (SFHEA) of the Higher Education Academy, the professional body for teachers in Higher Education. Our staff regularly make scholarly contributions to national education conferences, journals and books, as well as attract funding for teaching innovation projects, on topics spanning authentic assessment, embedding technology in teaching, team-based and active learning, gamification and induction to HE, among others. A number of the teaching staff have established a national reputation for excellence in teaching and learning and have been recognised for their innovation in teaching through national teaching awards, for example:

- Green Gown Award - for embedding sustainability in the chemistry curriculum
- RSC Higher Education Teaching Award
- RSC Team Prize for Excellence in Higher Education
- AdvanceHE Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

8. What is the structure of the Programme?

The academic year runs from September to June and is divided into two semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from course to course, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid-December, and from mid-January to the end of April. Our degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self-contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

Two types of module are delivered as part of your programme. They are:

- Compulsory modules - a module that you are required to study on this course;
- Optional modules - these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules.

Global Challenge Pathways

This programme includes the option for you to take a Global Challenge Pathway. These modules offer you an exciting opportunity to work with students and staff from different disciplines to explore topical global issues such as power and conflict, health inequalities, climate change, generative AI, social justice, global citizenship, and enterprise from different perspectives.

Global Challenge Pathways can either be taken as one 15-credit module at Levels 4, 5 and 6, or one 15-credit module at Levels 5 and 6. For more information about our Global Challenge Pathways please visit:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/globalchallengepathways/>

Modern Languages or Certificate in TESOL

Alternatively, you could choose to study modules with the University Language Centre. The Language Centre offers three pathways; The Language Specialist, The Language Taster, and The Trinity Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Language (TESOL). Language Centre modules are available separately for students at Level 4. At Levels 5 and 6 they are included within the Global Challenge Pathways.

If you choose the Language Specialist pathway, you will automatically be enrolled on a Semester 2 Modern Language module as a continuation of your language of choice as a faculty funded 'additional' module. Undertaking a Modern Languages module in Semester 2 is compulsory if you wish to continue to the Language Specialist Global Challenge Pathway the following academic year.

For more information about Language Centre option modules available to you please visit the following webpages.

For new (Level 4) students please visit: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/languagecentre/>

For current (Level 5 and Level 6) students please visit: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/academiclife/global->

For further information on the content of modules currently offered, please visit:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/>

A summary of the credit requirements per year are shown below.

Course Transfers

Transfers between Chemistry, Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry and Chemistry with Materials Chemistry:

You may elect to transfer from MChem Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry to MChem Chemistry at any point up to the first week of Semester 1 of Year 3.

You may elect to transfer from MChem Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry to MChem Chemistry with Materials Chemistry:

1. At any point up to the first week of Semester 1 of Year 2.
2. At any point up to the first week of Semester 2 of Year 2 if you have taken CHE-20091 Structure and Function in Materials Chemistry as an optional module at Level 5.

Transfers to the BSc(Hons) (3 year) Programme:

The Chemistry programmes are structured to allow flexibility to transfer between BSc and MChem routes throughout the programme. If you do not reach the Level 5 to 6, or Level 6 to 7 progression thresholds set out in Regulation D2 for Integrated Masters programmes, you will be automatically transferred to the corresponding BSc(Hons) route. You may also choose to transfer to the BSc(Hons) Chemistry route at any point before the end of year 3.

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows.

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 4	105	15	15
Level 5	105	15	15
Level 6	105	15	15
Level 7	120	0	0

Module Lists

Level 4

The level 4 structure is shared across all Chemistry single honours programmes and builds a strong foundation in Chemistry while giving the flexibility to transfer to either the Chemistry or Chemistry with Materials Chemistry programmes at the end of level 4. Option modules widen your focus through teaching shared across the faculty (Science and Society) or institution (Global Challenge Pathways).

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Sustainable Chemistry	CHE-10051	15	Semester 1-2
Practical and Professional Chemistry Skills	CHE-10061	30	Semester 1-2
Chemical Structure and Reactivity	CHE-10063	30	Semester 1-2
Chemistry Connections	CHE-10087	30	Semester 1-2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Science & Society	NAT-10001	15	Semester 1-2

Level 5

Compulsory chemistry modules span the breadth of organic, inorganic, physical and analytical chemistry, as well as developing practical and professional skills. You will study two modules specifically relating to medicinal chemistry, exploring the organic, inorganic and physical chemistry that underpins medicinal chemistry, identifying the ways that drug molecules interact with the body and applying this to the process of drug design.

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Structure and Function in Medicinal Chemistry	CHE-20097	15	Semester 1
Chemical Characterisation and Transformations	CHE-20093	30	Semester 1-2
Practical and Professional Chemistry	CHE-20099	30	Semester 1-2
Principles of Drug Design	CHE-20081	15	Semester 2
Environmental Analysis	CHE-20089	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Structure and Function in Materials Chemistry	CHE-20091	15	Semester 1
Flexible Work Placement (Level 5)	NAT-20011	15	Semester 1-2

Level 5 Module Rules

Please note: You cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 5) and Flexible Work Placement (Level 6)

Level 6

You will study compulsory chemistry modules that give a flavour of the full breadth of chemistry, while allowing specialisation in the areas most relevant to medicinal chemistry. Your independent research project and literature review will also allow you to specialise in research field(s) in or relevant to Medicinal Chemistry. You will have access to explore the application of Medicinal Chemistry in Forensic Science through the Forensic Toxicology option module, or to continue with a Global Challenges Pathway or gain experiential learning through education/work placement modules.

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Mechanisms of Drug Action	CHE-30058	15	Semester 1
Kinetics, Catalysis and Mechanism	CHE-30078	15	Semester 1
Synthetic Strategies in Organic Chemistry	CHE-30080	15	Semester 1
Independent Research Project	CHE-30066	15	Semester 1-2
Scientific Literature Review	CHE-30068	15	Semester 1-2
Chemical Analysis: Instrumentation and Evaluation	CHE-30070	15	Semester 2
Topics in Chemical Science	CHE-30074	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Flexible Work Placement (Level 6)	NAT-30008	15	Semester 1-2
Professional Experience in Education	NAT-30012	15	Semester 1-2
Forensic Toxicology: Ingestion to Detection	FSC-30039	15	Semester 2

Level 6 Module Rules

CHE-20081 is recommended as prior knowledge for students opting to studying CHE-30058. If you wish to take CHE-30058 without having previously studied CHE-20081 please seek approval from the module leader. Please note that the Level 5 Forensic Science module Drugs of Abuse is not a prerequisite for Forensic Toxicology FSC-30039 and the equivalent knowledge is acquired in the Level 5 Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry course.

Please note: You cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 5) and Flexible Work Placement (Level 6). You also cannot take both Flexible Work Placement (Level 6) and Professional Experience in Education.

Level 7

The MChem year places a greater emphasis on your ability to work independently and equips you for a research career. You will be trained in research methods and carry out a 60-credit research project in an area of your choice related to Medicinal Chemistry, reviewing the relevant research literature to place your work in context. A 30-credit taught module consolidates your chemistry knowledge through synoptic topics and offers a choice of modern topics at the forefront of the discipline including material taught from research publications.

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
MChem Research Training	CHE-40050	30	Semester 1-2
MChem Medicinal Chemistry Independent Research Project	CHE-40064	60	Semester 1-2
Synoptic Topics and Modern Trends in Chemistry	CHE-40070	30	Semester 1-2

9. Final and intermediate awards

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:

Master's Degree in Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry	480 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5, 6 and 7. You must accumulate at least 360 credits in your main subject (out of 480 credits overall) to graduate with a named single honours degree in this subject.
BSc (Hons) Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6 You must accumulate at least 270 credits in your main subject (out of 360 credits overall), with at least 90 credits in each of the three years of study, to graduate with a named single honours degree in this subject
Diploma in Higher Education	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
Certificate in Higher Education	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

International Year option: in addition to the above students must pass a module covering the international

year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'international year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the international year, will be transferred to the four-year version of the programme.

Work Placement Year option: in addition to the above students must pass a non-credit bearing module covering the work placement year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'with Work Placement Year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the work placement year, will be transferred to the four-year version of the programme.

10. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance.

Our assessment strategy will help you to develop and evidence your ability to:

1. Conduct and report practical work:

We place a strong emphasis on developing robust lab skills and confident use of research grade equipment. A **practical exam** at the end of 1st year consolidates the lab skills you have developed and gives confidence in progressing to the advanced practical skills in 2nd year. Reporting of practical work during years 1 and 2 use **electronic lab portfolios** to scaffold the development of record keeping, data analysis and chemical characterisation, setting you up for the professional **lab books** required for record keeping in your independent research in 3rd year and MChem projects. You are taught to prepare a professional **lab report** in year 1, develop this to a publication format **scientific paper** in year 2, write up your own **research paper** at 3rd year culminating to a 15,000 word **dissertation** on your research project in your MChem year.

2. Apply knowledge and understanding to solve problems:

Problem solving skills are developed throughout the programme through formative problems and assessed **problem sheets**. These assessments are typically based on authentic chemistry tasks and may incorporate information retrieval tasks and/or data analysis. The use of written **examinations** in selected modules assess your ability to solve problems in a time limited fashion under invigilated conditions and supports the consolidation of knowledge. The style of questions develop from short answer questions testing core theory and familiar problem-solving tasks in 1st year to longer questions assessing critical judgment and applied problem solving in later years. To support the emphasis on problem-solving you will be encouraged to create your own content summary pages, which are permitted in exam assessments from 3rd year. In the MChem, **interview** assessment probing the depth and breadth of knowledge is used alongside written exams.

3. Demonstrate a range of scientific skills

You will develop a broad range of scientific skills over the course of your degree, which are assessed through authentic **exercises** and scientific **reports**. These include the development of digital skills for creating, manipulating and processing data, using specialist scientific software, and design exercises where you will apply your skills to propose creative solutions to synthetic and drug design challenges.

4. Communicate effectively with a range of audiences:

In addition to the formal reporting of practical work, your ability to source and communicate information from chemical literature is developed from writing for a lay audience in 1st year, through to more formal scientific and business writing tasks in 2nd year to a scientific **literature review** on a medicinal chemistry topic of your choosing in 3rd year.

Presentation skills are built through a short, **pre-recorded presentation** in 1st year and a **group presentation** in 2nd year. In 3rd year you will deliver two individual **presentations**, one in each semester, summarising data from pharmaceutical databases and from the medicinal chemistry research literature. A **technical interview** in 3rd year allows you to demonstrate your understanding of a topic in an oral discussion, replicating an interview style experienced in many scientific careers, and building towards the **viva** assessment of your third year and MChem projects

A series of **poster** and **infographic** assessments assess your ability to summarise detailed knowledge in a highly visual and accessible format. These build to you presenting a conference style poster session in 3rd year, delivering an elevator pitch and answering questions on your poster. In your MChem year you will summarise and present your project work in a poster session in the style of a research symposium.

5. Work professionally, both individually and collaboratively.

Reflective diaries are used in 1st and 2nd year to document learning experiences and the acquisition of professional and employability skills. A series of **group assignments** in 2nd year focus on developing the skills

needed to work successfully in group environments. You will produce professional outputs in the form of business proposal (2nd year) and **research proposal** (MChem).

In 3rd year you will undertake an individual research project, working collaboratively with an academic member of staff to plan, review and manage progress. This is further developed in your final year, when you will be working within a collaborative research environment to conduct a significant piece of research that is potentially publishable (approx. 400 practical hours). These projects, documented through detailed record keeping (**lab books**), and communicated through appropriate scientific writing (**research paper/ literature review / dissertation**) and oral communication (**presentation, poster and viva**) draw together the professional skills required of a chemist in the 21st century.

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshop, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

Activity

	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	Guided independent Study	Placements
Year 1 (Level 4)	30.2%	69.8%	0%
Year 2 (Level 5)	32.7%	67.3%	6.3%
Year 3 (Level 6)	16.4%	83.6%	0%
Year 4 (Level 7)	12.9%	87.1%	0%

12. Accreditation

All Master in Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry (MChem) combinations, including the "with International Year" and "with Work Placement Year" options, are fully accredited by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

13. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

14. Other Learning Opportunities

Study Abroad (International Year)

A summary of the International Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided in Annex A.

Work Placement Year

Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with Work Placement Year' degree programme or to transfer onto the 4-year degree programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking their year-long placement. Eligibility rules are included in the Annex.

Students wishing to take the work placement year should meet with the Programme Director to obtain their signature to confirm agreement before they will be allowed to commence their placement.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa must check with the Immigration Compliance Team prior to commencing any form of placement.

A summary of the Work Placement Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided in Annex B.

15. Additional Costs

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation, and for any replacement laboratory coats, safety glasses and lab books beyond what is initially provided to you.

If you elect to take one of the optional modules:

- NAT-20011: Flexible Work Placement (level 5)
- NAT-30008: Flexible Work Placement (level 6)
- NAT-30012: Professional Experience in Education

You will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from your placement provider, and if necessary, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the placement provider additional costs may include parking permits, travel and transport, suitable clothing, DBS checks, and compulsory health checks.

A small stipend may be available from the placement provider for work placements, but this will need to be explored on a placement-by-placement basis as some organisations, such as charities, may not have any extra money available. Students should budget with the assumption that their placement will be unpaid.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa should check with the Immigration Compliance team prior to commencing any type of paid placement to ensure that they are not contravening their visa requirements.

16. Annex - International Year

MChem Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry with International Year

International Year Programme
Students registered for Single Honours Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the International Year programme, providing that they meet the progression criteria outlined in this document. Students accepted onto the International Year programme will have an extra year of study at an international partner institution after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele. Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the International Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in respect of the International Year will normally revert to the Combined Honours programme without the International Year and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript. Study at Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 and Level 7 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for 'Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry with International Year'.
International Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the international year programme of study aims to provide students with:

1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of their subject
2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially

Entry Requirements for the International Year

Students may apply to the 5-year programme during Level 5. Admission to the International Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff.

The criteria to be applied are:

- Academic Performance (an average of 55% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the International Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 55% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 55% requirement may progress to the International Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's Academic Mentor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director)

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Placement Year.

Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on the International Year via the following methods:

- Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutor, in line with recommended Academic Mentoring meeting points.
- Support from the University's Global Education Team

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete a Keele undergraduate programme with International Year will be able to:

1. Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments
2. Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation
3. Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting.
4. Reflect on the international relevance of Chemistry and related disciplines, and their importance for addressing regional and global environmental, economic and technological challenges
5. Consider different modes and methods of learning and teaching in the physical sciences from an international standpoint and relate these to your own development as a scientist

These learning outcomes will all be assessed by the submission of a satisfactory individual learning agreement, the successful completion of assessments at the partner institution and the submission of the reflective portfolio element of the international year module.

Regulations

Students registered for the International Year are subject to the programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the International Year, the following regulations will apply:

Students undertaking the International Year must complete 120 credits, which must comprise *at least 40%* in the student's discipline area.

This may impact on your choice of modules to study, for example you will have to choose certain modules to ensure you have the discipline specific credits required.

Students are barred from studying any module with significant overlap to the Level 6 modules they will study on their return. Significant overlap with Level 5 modules previously studied should also be avoided.

Additional costs for the International Year

Tuition fees for students on the International Year will be charged at 15% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The International Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation, to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Students who meet external eligibility criteria may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible income dependent bursaries at Keele.

Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some Governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

17. Annex - Work Placement Year

MChem Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry with Work Placement Year

Work Placement Year summary

Students registered for this programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their studies to the 'with Work Placement Year' option. Students accepted onto this programme will have an extra year of study (the Work Placement Year) with a relevant placement provider after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the Work Placement Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfactorily complete the Work Placement Year will normally revert to the 3-year programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the Work Placement Year option.

Work Placement Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the Work Placement Year aims to provide students with the opportunity to carry out a long-term work-based learning experience within an industry of their choice between Years 2 and 3 (Levels 5 and 6) of their degree programme. The module will be underpinned by reflective assessment, employer and tutor evaluation and support from the Placements and Projects Manager and Academic Placements Link..

Entry Requirements for the Work Placement Year

Admission to the Work Placement Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff. Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with work placement year' degree programme, or to transfer onto the 4-year programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking the year-long work placement. Students who fail to pass the work placement year, and those who fail to meet the minimum requirements of the work placement year module, (* or equivalent, work placement), will be automatically transferred onto the 3-year degree programme.

* We recommend where possible students undertake a placement of between 9 - 12 months on a full-time basis to maximize academic and personal growth. However, the Work Placement Year mandates a minimum of 24 weeks in duration, ideally on a full-time basis, but no less than 21 hours per week. This enables those undertaking an unpaid placement to work on a part-time basis alongside.

To undertake the Faculty of Natural Sciences Work Placement Year, it is normally required that students must have achieved an average of 50% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5. Places on the Faculty of Natural Sciences Work Placement Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 50% across all Level 5 modules.

Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 50% requirement may progress to the Faculty of Natural Sciences Work Placement Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account.

**Students who require a visa to study in the UK may be able to add in a work placement depending upon the programme, and may have to undertake a placement of a longer duration to meet UKVI regulations.*

The ability to add a work placement is dependent upon the UK Immigration rules at the time of the request. It may be that for some programmes students will not have the option to request a placement period to be added to their programme before they arrive in the UK and would need to apply for a new visa. There is no guarantee that a placement will be provided and that students who have a visa are subject to a number of restrictions on the type of work, including placements they can undertake.

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Work Placement Year.

Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on the Work Placement Year via the following methods:

Regular contact between the student and a named member of staff who will be assigned to the student as their University supervisor. The University supervisor will be in regular contact with the student throughout the year and be on hand to provide advice (pastoral or academic) and liaise with the Placement supervisor on the student's behalf if required.

Two formal contacts with the student during the placement year: the University supervisor will visit the student in their placement organization at around 5 weeks after the placement has commenced, and then visit again at the approximate mid way point into the placement. (visits may be in person or virtual).

Regular supervision sessions will take place with the placement supervisor (or his/her nominee) throughout the duration of the placement.

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete the 'with Work Placement Year' option will be able to:

Identify areas for skills development, in relation to a specific career or sector.

Demonstrate skills and attribute development through engagement with a placement.

Reflect on the broader personal and professional development throughout the placement experience.

Devise an action plan for future careers development.

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the non-credit bearing Work Placement Year module (NAT-30010).

Regulations

Students registered for the 'with Work Placement Year' option are subject to programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the Work Placement Year, the following regulations will apply:

Students undertaking the Work Placement Year must successfully complete the zero-credit rated Work Placement Year module (NAT-30010).

In order to ensure a high-quality placement experience, each placement provider, alongside the University and Student will sign a tripartite placement learning agreement, setting out expectations from all parties and outlining their responsibilities in relation to the requirements of each organisation.

Once a student has been accepted by a placement organisation, and the placement is approved the student will be assigned a University representative as their point of contact, and the University will ensure that it has a named contact within the placement organisation.

Students undertaking work placements will be expected to complete a Health and Safety checklist prior to commencing their work experience and will be required to satisfy the Health and Safety regulations of the company or organisation at which they are based.

Students will be expected to behave professionally in terms of:

conforming to the work practices of the organisation.

remembering that they are representatives of the University and their actions will reflect on the School and have an impact on that organisation's willingness (or otherwise) to remain engaged with the placement.

Additional costs for the Work Placement Year

Tuition fees for students on the Work Placement Year will be charged at 20% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The Work Placement Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation; to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk.

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their placement provider, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the placement provider additional costs may include parking permits, travel and transport, suitable clothing, DBS checks, and compulsory health checks.

A small stipend may be available to students from the placement provider during the placement but this will need to be explored on a placement-by-placement basis as some organisations, such as charities, may not have any extra money available. Students should budget with the assumption that their placement will be unpaid.

Eligibility for student finance will depend on the type of placement and whether it is paid or not. If it is paid, this is likely to affect student finance eligibility, however if it is voluntary and therefore unpaid, should not affect student finance eligibility. Students are required to confirm eligibility with their student finance provider.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa should check with the Immigration Compliance team prior to commencing any type of paid placement to ensure that they are not contravening their visa requirements.

18. Annex - Programme-specific regulations

Programme Regulations: MChem Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry

Final Award and Award Titles	Master in Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry (MChem)
Intermediate Award(s)	BSc (Hons) Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry Diploma in Higher Education Certificate in Higher Education
Last modified	May 2024
Programme Specification	https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmespecifications

The University's Academic Regulations which can be found on the Keele University website (<https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>)[1] apply to and regulate the programme, other than in instances where the specific programme regulations listed below over-ride them. These programme regulations list:

- *Exemptions* which are characterised by the omission of the relevant regulation.
- *Variations* which are characterised by the replacement of part of the regulation with alternative wording.
- *Additional Requirements* which set out what additional rules that apply to students in relation to this programme.

The following **exemptions, variations** and **additional requirements** to the University regulations have been checked by Academic Services and have been approved by the Faculty Education Committee.

A) EXEMPTIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where an exemption from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

For the whole duration of their studies, students on this Programme are exempt from the following regulations:

- **No exemptions apply.**

B) VARIATIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where a variation from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

Variation 1: Detail of the Award

1. Any student who fails to satisfy the requirements for progression to Level 7 shall revert to BSc Honours Degree candidature and be considered for the award of an Honours Degree (BSc Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry) under the provisions of regulation C3.
2. Any student who fails to satisfy the requirements for the award of a Master's degree shall revert to BSc Honours Degree candidature and be considered for an award as detailed in part 1 above.

Variation 2: Level 4 to Level 5 Progression

In order to progress from level 4 to level 5, students must pass all compulsory chemistry modules and meet the required threshold qualifying marks on any assessment(s) in these modules. Students with outstanding reassessment attempts on assessments with threshold qualifying marks may not progress before these assessments have been completed. At the discretion of the local module board, this may be discounted.

Variation 3: Work Placement Year Eligibility

In order to be eligible to pursue a work placement year between level 5 and level 6, students must meet all university requirements and have demonstrated suitable competency in relevant practical and professional skills where appropriate.

Variation 4: Condonement

The CHE-20099 (Practical and Professional Chemistry), CHE-20089 (Environmental Analysis), CHE-30066

(Independent Research Project) and CHE-30068 (Scientific Literature Review) modules must be passed at 40% and are not eligible for condonement due to accreditation requirements. All other modules are eligible for condonement as defined in Regulation D5.

C) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The programme requirements listed below are in addition to the University's Academic Regulations:

Additional requirement 1: Laboratory and Practical Classes

1. Laboratory and practical sessions are compulsory and are essential in fulfilling the intended learning outcomes of modules of which they are part, and a requirement of Royal Society of Chemistry accreditation. Over a semester, failure to attend >70% of the laboratory/practical classes without approval, may result in failure of the relevant modules with no reassessment being offered. In addition, students must meet any ILOs related to practical sessions in each module, where appropriate. Failure to attend laboratory/practical sessions in a given module, without approval, may result in failure of the relevant modules with no reassessment being offered.
2. Any student failing to follow the health and safety guidelines in the undergraduate laboratory will be asked to leave. This may include inappropriate dress, refusal to follow reasonable requests of staff, late attendance resulting in missed safety briefings, or attending under the influence of alcohol or other substances. The student will not be permitted to make up the missed session.

Additional requirement 2: Coursework Assessment

Failure to engage appropriately with a module's coursework assessment items without good cause (that is, by failing to submit more than 50% of coursework items) may result in reassessment being denied.

[1] References to University Regulations in this document apply to the content of the University's Regulatory Framework as set out on the University website here <https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 03 April 2025

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1.1	2024/25	TESS PHILLIPS	07 August 2024	Clauses added to clarify transfer from Combined Honours programme
1	2024/25	TESS PHILLIPS	14 June 2024	Variation added to state that condonement is not possible on the CHE-30050 (Chemistry/Medicinal Chemistry Research Project) and CHE-30051 (Chemistry/Medicinal Chemistry Dissertation) modules.
1	2023/24	MATTHEW O'BRIEN	18 January 2023	
1.2	2022/23	MATTHEW O'BRIEN	22 December 2022	Change to progression threshold from Level 5 to Level 6: reduced from 60% to 50% agreed by Senate in December 2022
1.1	2022/23	MIKE EDWARDS	04 April 2022	Addition of Global Challenge Pathways following PSRB approval
1	2022/23	MIKE EDWARDS	01 February 2022	
1	2021/22	LAURA HANCOCK	23 March 2021	
1	2020/21	MIKE EDWARDS	12 December 2019	
1	2019/20	MIKE EDWARDS	12 December 2019	