CHEMISTRY AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Overview

There are a wide range of options open to chemists, from lab-based roles (recruiting at a range of levels from BSc, to MChem to PhD), to roles which apply scientific understanding to work in consultancy, science communication or project management.

It’s also possible to access some roles in chemical engineering with a chemistry degree, particularly in shortage areas where employers are prepared to offer some training (although you’ll typically need further academic qualifications in the future to become a chartered chemical engineer).

Key Resources

Royal Society of Chemistry (rsc.org/careers) careers resources:

- jobs.chemistryworld.com – explore the filters to find internships and industrial placements
- Great guides to chemistry job hunting (rsc.org/careers/job-seeking), which lists major job hunting sites in sectors including environment and energy, healthcare, science communication and others
- advice on career decisions for final year students, information on salaries and ‘ChemCareers’ – YouTube videos and webinars
- The RSC also offer individual careers advice sessions, but please note that they advise current students should use their university careers service in the first instance.

Prospects.ac.uk job profiles in science and pharmaceuticals – 38 detailed job profiles on graduate roles in science and pharmaceuticals, including analytical chemist, forensic scientist, healthcare scientist and medicinal chemist, research scientist. Each profile includes recommended resources for finding jobs and work experience, plus salary guidance, job description and information on required qualifications.

Nature.com/naturecareers, jobs.newscientist.com and Jobs.ac.uk – jobs boards with plenty of opportunities for chemists and chemical engineers, including PhD studentships and research and academic posts.

Gradcracker.com – Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths site for graduate jobs, internships and placements – see chemistry opportunities and chemical engineering opportunities.

Nucleargraduates.com – a joint endeavor by organisations across the UK nuclear industry to recruit more graduates into two-year graduate schemes in a wide range of firms (with opportunities for both chemists and chemical engineers).

icheme.org/careers – Institute of Chemical Engineering resources including a useful graduates’ guide, job hunting tips, and list of accredited postgraduate courses.

jobs.thechemicalengineer.com/searchjobs – use the ‘job level’ filter to find graduate, apprentice or internship opportunities.

UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres (sciencecentres.org.uk) – a useful list of science centres you could approach for work experience or speculative job hunting as a science communicator, plus a jobs and vacancy board.