EXPLORERegistry options with your degree

Chemistry

Chemistry graduates tend to pursue careers in Energy and Utilities, the Science and Pharmaceutical sector and within Education. The transferable skills developed as a chemist, however, make sectors such as the Public Sector, Finance, IT and Law also very attractive, especially as relevant qualifications are not required by most roles available in these sectors. Finally, those wanting to communicate about their interest in science may venture into Media and Publishing.

Roles

Each job title links through to a broad job description, salary and conditions, entry requirements, typical recruiters and links to further, pre-assessed useful information.

- Research Scientist
- Forensic Scientist
- Pharmacologist
- Toxicologist
- Clinical Biochemist
- Product/Process Development Scientist
- Analytical Chemist
- Biotechnologist
- Secondary School Teacher
- Science Writer
- Technical Sales Engineer
- Chartered Accountant/Auditor
- Management Accountancy
- Solicitor

Finding Opportunities

If you are looking at the roles above, almost all of them will require some form of postgraduate study. Most will need a PhD. Research and development roles firmly require a PhD. Being a Science Writer often comes after a PhD or from training to be a journalist and then specialising. Most of the other roles would find a PhD a distinct advantage and would ensure your long-term prospects are not inhibited. If Biotechnology is of interest, you can consider working as a Research Assistant at a Biotech company for a while before embarking on a PhD.

For those interested in teaching, forensic science or being a solicitor, a specialist postgraduate course is normally required, although prospective teachers can train on the job through SCITT or with three years of experience can train on the job through the Schools direct training programme. Solicitors are typically sponsored by companies to study for their legal practice course with non-law graduates securing work experience for the summer after graduation – see Lawcareers.net.

Those hoping to do toxicology can study a relevant Masters or train on the job whilst technical sales engineers and trainee accountants do not need any postgraduate qualifications to secure a role and are trained on the job (with accountants gaining a professional accountancy qualification). For information on further study head to FindaPhd.Com and/or the Prospects Postgraduate Study website.

Look at the Institute of Chartered Accountants and on the CIMA website for Management Accountancy.

Teaching experience can be found through the Students in Schools programme, or through getting in touch with schools you have a history with. To gain experience in a research role try the University Research Opportunities Programme or the Knowledge Transfer Partnership Schemes.
It may be difficult to secure lab based experience unless you try for a one year placement because of health
and safety concerns and the training involved. You may be able to organise visits by directly approaching labs
that interest you. Other work experience in sales, accountancy and law may be more accessible with schemes
being very visible so get onto My Jobs Online to track down opportunities.

Further details on identifying potential recruiters and vacancies are available through the links in the ‘Roles’
sections above. But some specialist websites include:

- The Forensic Society has pages dedicated to jobs and careers information.
- Chemsee.com and Jobs.ac.uk lists research jobs for chemists across industry and academia.
- The New Scientist, Chemistry World, Jobs in Science and Chem Jobs all provide job vacancies for the
full range of Chemist roles open to Chemistry graduates.
- Health related jobs look at the NHS jobsite.
- For food manufacturing related roles try FoodManJobs.

Further Reading

- The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI)
- The British Toxicology Society has vacancies and PhD studentships.
- The British Pharmacology Society has useful careers information
- The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Society gives great careers information.
- Cogent is the sector skills council for science based industries and has great careers information.
- The Royal Society for Chemistry – Chemsoc – has great careers information.