Career Opportunities for Chemistry Graduates
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Work as ...  Opportunities in ...
- Analytical chemist
- Accountant / auditor
- Chemical engineer
- Chemical development engineer
- College / university lecturer
- Environmental chemist
- Forensic researcher
- Forensic scientist
- Graduate engineer
- Industrial chemist
- Laboratory manager
- Material scientist
- Medicinal chemist
- Patent agent
- Pharmaceutical researcher
- Police officer
- Polymer chemist
- Process engineer
- Product support chemist
- Purification scientist
- Quality analyst
- Quality control technician
- Research scientist
- School teacher
- Scientific journalist
- Toxicologist
- Accountancy
- Agriculture
- Brewing and distilleries
- Cosmetic industry
- Education
- Environmental agencies
- Food and drink industries
- Forensic services
- Forestry commission
- Government services
- Health care
- Health service
- Industrial consultancies
- Inland revenue
- Law firms
- Marketing and sales
- Medical devices
- Merchant banks
- Patent agencies
- Petrochemical industry
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Police laboratories
- Police service
- Recruitment agencies
- Scientific publishing
- Water purification

Links with Industry
The University of Strathclyde has a long and proud history of engagement with industry. Recently, the University has enjoyed success at the prestigious Times Higher Education awards after being named 2013/14 ‘Entrepreneurial University of the Year’.

This award follows Strathclyde’s wins of the 2012/13 ‘UK University of the Year’ award and the 2011/12 ‘Research Project of the Year’ award.
A degree in chemistry opens doors to a wide variety of employment opportunities. The range of available jobs is considerable, and encompasses many different types of chemistry and industries. From nanotechnology to large scale chemical plants, from the drinks and pharmaceutical industries to teaching, the opportunities are numerous.

Accreditation – the stamp of approval

Employers recognise that a degree from Strathclyde Chemistry is an indication of quality. All of Strathclyde’s MChem, MSci and BSc chemistry courses are fully accredited by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) – meaning this independent external body has given them the stamp of approval. Our graduates qualify for membership of the RSC and can gain recognition as a Chartered Chemist after suitable work experience.

Where appropriate, our specialist degrees also carry accreditation from another professional body. The Applied Chemistry and Chemical Engineering degree has achieved professional accreditation from the Institution of Chemical Engineers, so that graduates may become both Chartered Chemists and Chartered Engineers after suitable industrial experience. The Forensic & Analytical Chemistry degree carries additional prestigious accreditation from the Chartered Society for Forensic Science (CSFS), allowing graduates to take up professional membership after relevant occupational experience. Finally, the Chemistry with Teaching degree is further accredited by the General Teaching Council (Scotland).

Such dual accreditations are rare in UK chemistry degrees and employers value the additional mark of assurance.

Career opportunities

University of Strathclyde chemistry graduates compete very successfully for jobs in all branches of the chemical industry. Their chances of employment are substantially increased by the experience gained in the industrial placement year and through internships, and the training in communication and other employment skills so valued by employers.

Our chemistry graduates hold well-paid careers in all areas of the chemical industry. They are working in a range of interesting positions such as analytical chemists, chemical engineers, forensic examiners, forensic researchers, police officers, project engineers, development chemists, laboratory technicians, development chemists, technical associates, research analysts and chemistry teachers. On page 10 you’ll find a list of employers of our recent graduates.

It is not so well known that there are also major opportunities for chemists in non-chemical areas. The study of chemistry helps the development of logical thought, problem-solving and numeric skills, and the ability to write accurate and concise reports – all important for a range of jobs. Many Strathclyde chemistry graduates have found interesting and rewarding careers in areas such as banking, finance, recruitment, marketing and the civil service.

In the following pages you’ll find examples of Strathclyde Chemistry graduates and their careers in chemistry, teaching and other areas.

Further study

Many of our graduates proceed to higher degrees in chemistry or other science-related areas, and an honours chemistry degree is also accepted for entry into other postgraduate courses such as Management, Information Technology and Chemical Engineering.

Salary expectations

Recent research has shown that chemistry graduates are better paid over a lifetime than graduates of almost any other discipline. They earn on average around £60,000 more than most other graduates over a working lifetime and around £190,000 more than those with two or more A Levels (but no degree).

[Data taken from The Economic Benefits of Higher Education Qualifications, PricewaterhouseCoopers]

Work experience opportunities

The MChem courses normally* contain an integrated placement in Year 4. Traditionally students choose either an industrial or a research placement, depending on their career objectives.

This is a significant time for students to gain valuable work experience, make useful contacts and decide whether a particular career or industry will suit them. Payment during this year is normally in line with graduate salaries.

* The MChem ‘Chemistry with Teaching’ students undertake the education component of their course in Year 4, including teaching practice in schools. The MSci ‘Applied Chemistry & Chemical Engineering’ students undertake an engineering design project in Year 4.
Recently a new alternative has been introduced: a knowledge exchange (KE) placement within the Department’s ‘Chemistry Clinic’. A KE placement is ideal for those who wish to work in modern, chemistry-based businesses where marketing, business skills and commercial awareness are as important as chemical knowledge. The student teams provide access to chemistry facilities and consultancy services for both large and small projects on a short-term and cost-effective basis.

We aim to place all our MChem students according to their subject specialisation and interest, in an industrial, research or KE placement, either locally, within the UK, Europe or even further afield.

Other work experience opportunities include the year in teacher training and schools for the ‘Chemistry with Teaching’ students; and summer internships for ‘Applied Chemistry with Chemical Engineering’ students – often these are well-remunerated positions in the Oil and Gas industry.

The Placement team in the department offers extensive help in securing a placement – interviews are arranged for the students, travel expenses are often paid and communications between the department and placement partners are excellent. The Careers Service also provides many services such as CV writing and interview training to help students secure placements, internships and part-time work.

Employers value the experience and maturity that a placement brings, and Strathclyde chemistry graduates are much in demand for that reason. See what employers say opposite.

Through work experience, students are offered a unique insight into how chemistry and industry operate in commercial, government or university workplaces. During their placement students are assessed by both an Academic Supervisor and an Industrial Supervisor. The placements benefit students by:

- increasing their scientific knowledge and understanding
- developing their intellectual skills in, for example, analysing problems, proposing solutions to them, organising their work, and writing scientific reports
- improving their manual skills associated with scientific and technological operations
- developing their personalities and understanding of individuals and groups in work situations
- introducing them to current work practices and working with a range of individuals
- improving their communication skills
- providing them with background information and experience which may help career choice
- providing them with future career opportunities.

Travel opportunities

Strathclyde Chemistry students have the opportunity to study abroad for a year, take summer placements overseas and spend their industrial placement overseas. The university and the department offer various bursaries to help our students to travel abroad, and to encourage overseas students to visit Strathclyde.

Transferable or generic skills

Employers agree that they seek graduates with a range of skills. While the science is crucial, employers are also looking for people who can communicate well, work in a team, research information and present confidently. These skills are important in all areas of employment.

Strathclyde Chemistry degrees produce well-rounded graduates who are highly marketable. The transferable or generic skills taught on our Chemistry degrees include:

- IT skills (general and specialist)
- Presentation skills
- Communication skills
- Team-working
- Personal effectiveness
- Research skills
- Study skills
- CV writing
- Interview techniques

In addition, Honours students take a final year Career Skills class, which further develops their employability skills. A unique aspect of this module is the input of external experts, who bring a breadth of experience and their individual perspective to the class. These experts include employment professionals along with marketing, social media and PR specialists. The activities help students to analyse their own strengths and interests, assisting them to make a more informed career choice. With the help in CV preparation and introduction to Assessment Centre activities, this class helps prepare students for the next stage in their career.
What do employers say?

Dr David Kennedy
R&D Director, Outside Innovation, Reckitt-Benckiser

“As a chemistry graduate at RB you will quickly see the application of your degree skills in real life situations. We look for graduates that aren’t just technically competent but that are also business savvy and have strong interpersonal skills, so that they can leverage their technical knowledge to drive business growth and improve the lives of our consumers.

A degree in chemistry is a great starting point for a career within RB because it gives you a very strong technical and problem-solving base, but the journey does not stop there, you’ll continue to grow with RB and develop the new skills you need to be successful. The environment is fast paced and we need graduates who can quickly adapt and apply their knowledge in different ways to solve consumer or technical challenges to drive a dynamic global business to greater heights.”

Dr Harry Kelly
Chemistry Recruitment Manager, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)

What does GSK look for in a chemistry graduate?

“At GSK, we aim to recruit the best chemistry graduates who will work towards discovering and developing the medicines of the future. From the day they start at GSK, our graduate chemists are fully integrated into multidisciplinary teams and are expected to utilise and build upon the skills and knowledge acquired at university in order to contribute to the Research and Development processes and achievements. Therefore we look for excellent chemistry knowledge, evidence of practical chemistry skills, good communication and presentation skills together with the ability to operate effectively within a team.”

Dr David Hollinshead
Science Policy Director, AstraZeneca

“What AstraZeneca are looking for in a chemistry graduate is ... first and foremost, excitement at working alongside others in applying their chemistry to address the needs of pharmaceutical discovery and development, and a drive to make their science successful. On the technical side, AstraZeneca seek fundamental chemical understanding, practical and analytical skills which contribute to successful laboratory working and effective problem solving.

What we have discovered about University of Strathclyde graduates is that they have certainly been inspired by their course content and tutoring.

Chemistry qualifications enable both good career prospects and better financial rewards than many other graduate courses. The value of a chemistry qualification is recognised by more than just the chemistry-using industries, and chemistry graduates are actively sought by the business, financial and other sectors. Equally, the government is indicating it wants the UK to be globally competitive by moving into high-value goods, service and industries through an effective science and innovation system. It is never a bad time to secure a chemistry higher education degree!”
Career paths of Strathclyde Chemistry Graduates

**Ailie**  
MSci Chemistry with Drug Discovery  
(graduated 2010)  
Lead Development Chemist at Worldmark Material Sciences in East Kilbride

**Best thing about your job?**  
The best thing about my job is being able to manage projects from start to finish. This means that I have the responsibility of developing the product and carrying out all the testing as well as scaling up to full scale manufacturing. My projects often involve great opportunities for international travel to various places in Asia and the Americas to carry out training and help promote the new product.

**Any industrial placement experience?**  
Prosidion, a pharmaceutical company in Oxford, from 2008 to 2009.

**Why did you choose to study at Strathclyde?**  
Because it is renowned for its excellent Chemistry department and its graduate employment ratings. It also provided the Chemistry with Drug Discovery course which fitted well with what I wanted to study.

**The best thing about your Strathclyde Chemistry course?**  
For me, the best thing about the course was the practical laboratory sessions. I learnt so much from these sessions and they were great fun. I made loads of great friends in the labs and we all socialised at the Student Union together which is one of the most enjoyable aspects of going to University.

**Would you recommend your course to others?**  
Yes definitely. It is a really challenging course but the knowledge and transferrable skills it provides you with are invaluable when it comes to finding a career.

**Did your degree help you get your job?**  
My degree gave me a sound chemistry knowledge to make me qualified for the job. More than anything, the degree provided me with essential transferrable skills such as interview and presentation skills as well as confidence in myself. All of these skills were extremely helpful for the interview process and have allowed me to progress in my job over the last three years.

**Advice, hints or tips?**  
Make the most of it, work as hard as you can because it will definitely all be worth it. Most of all, take the opportunity to do the industrial placement year if you can, it is invaluable experience. And finally, ask for help if you need it. All the staff are extremely helpful and there are plenty of things in place to help students who are struggling in certain areas.

**Rory**  
MSci Applied Chemistry and Chemical Engineering  
(graduated 2013)  
Petroleum Engineer, Talisman Sinopec Energy UK, Aberdeen

**Best thing about your job?**  
The variety. Every day I have a new challenge to overcome, a new problem to solve, my work is never boring. It covers a lot of disciplines so I get to work with a range of people, which means everyday I’m exposed to something different and learn something new.

**Previous work experience?**  
Reservoir Engineer, Talisman Sinopec Energy, Aberdeen, Summer 2012 & Summer 2011

**The best thing about your Strathclyde Chemistry course?**  
Being the joint degree between engineering and chemistry, I learned more than enough to make me proficient in both. I liked the fact that my curriculum was more varied than others, and I can now see the benefits of being involved across different disciplines.

**Why did you choose to study at Strathclyde?**  
The reputation and the very specific degree choice that I couldn’t do anywhere else.

**Would you recommend your course to others?**  
Definitely. It’s a very unique course that pulls from two similar, but often very distant, disciplines. It meant that my timetable was a lot more varied than students doing a more traditional degree. It also meant when I came to apply for jobs I had the luxury of being able to choose from both the chemical and process industries. And of course I ended up choosing neither!

**Did your degree help you get your job / help you in your job?**  
To be honest, out of the actual theory I learned in Uni, I use a small amount in my job – that’s probably applicable to other young graduates. It’s more about how it prepares you to handle the work thrown your way, and instils a willingness to learn new things. I’ll quite happily sit and work my way through a problem or situation I’ve not encountered before, and use really basic principles to tackle it. And of course a degree from Strathclyde is attractive to employers, so it opens the initial door.

**Advice, hints or tips?**  
Don’t say no to anything. This is probably more applicable if you manage to get a placement, but is equally true at University. If someone offers you the chance to go and visit somewhere, learn about something new, present something, take it. It’ll only help you in the long term.
“After all the CV classes and help, my CV looks so much better after only two drafts, and now I’d be more confident sending it out.”

“I felt that all the help and advice directly applied to me and I have used it a lot since the talk.”

Final Year Students commenting on the ‘Career Skills’ class

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**Catherine**
MSci Applied Chemistry and Chemical Engineering (graduated 2010)
Process Engineer, A/S, Great Yarmouth

**Best thing about your job?**
Every day is different – my team is responsible for over 50 offshore installations in the Southern North Sea and two onshore Gas Terminals. The work is fast paced and varied requiring me to liaise with operators, technical authorities, budget holders, client representatives and colleagues based in international locations on a daily basis using both technical and soft skills.

**Previous work experience?**
Graduate Process Engineer, Aberdeen

**Any industrial placement experience?**
Industrial placements are not available for my degree course however I secured an internship during the summer of 2008 with Maersk Oil working as a Process Engineering Intern in Qatar.

**The best thing about your Strathclyde Chemistry course?**
The opportunity to carry out genuinely groundbreaking and fresh research at the cutting edge of your chosen field during 5th year projects. I had the opportunity to create several completely new and unique compounds while researching Metal Organic Framework technology.

**Why did you choose to study at Strathclyde?**
The uniqueness of the course – Strathclyde was the first university in the country to offer a degree course that combined engineering and chemistry in equal measures which gave me a much broader understanding and increased the number of fields I could choose to work within upon graduation.

**Would you recommend your course to others?**
I would recommend my course to anyone looking to enter into the engineering industry – having an in depth understanding of chemistry on top of my engineering skills has given me an edge in the work place (even in the Oil and Gas industry!)

**Did you degree help you get your job / help you in your job?**
My degree has been extremely useful in my work. I have a much greater understanding of chemical reactions, such as hydrate formation, and their scale up, compared to my peers who studied Chemical Engineering.

**Advice, hints or tips?**
Use the Careers Service when applying for jobs. The staff within the Careers Service are invaluable and can provide guidance and support well beyond CV checking.

And finally
Strathclyde offers a dazzling selection of chemistry courses but Applied Chemistry and Chemical Engineering will provide employment opportunities that span both the scientific and engineering industries – put the effort in and you will have a fantastic foundation for your chosen career path.

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**Craig**
BSc (Hons) Chemistry with Drug Discovery (graduated 2009)
Acting Principal Teacher of Skills Development at Ardrossan Academy

**Best thing about your job?**
Working with young people to help them realise their potential and develop into self-dependent young adults. You get a real kick working with young people and seeing them mature as they move through the school.

**Previous work experience?**
Teacher of Chemistry at Ardrossan Academy
Probation year Waid Academy, Fife.

**The best thing about your Strathclyde Chemistry course?**
The reputation of the Chemistry department is well renowned. The department is the best in Scotland and one of the best in the UK and to have the opportunity to study at the University was one I wanted to seize with both hands.

**Would you recommend your course to others?**
I would certainly recommend the course to anyone seriously considering a career in Chemistry. Although I have not ended up with a career in industry, the skills that I have gained during my time at Strathclyde have steered me to a successful career in teaching. It just goes to show that a Chemistry degree from the University is both of high quality and also flexible which allows you to keep your options open.

**Did you degree help you get your job / help you in your job?**
A lot of the skills that I have learned are transferable. Now that I have pupils sitting Higher and Advanced Higher Chemistry I am able to advise them on the types of courses that are available at the University as well as the entry requirements and the skills and qualities that the department will be looking for from prospective undergraduate students.

**Advice, hints or tips?**
There is flexibility within the courses in the chemistry department at the University of Strathclyde so you do not have to have the next 10-20 years of your career mapped out by the end of the first year of your undergraduate course. The ability to change between the different courses offered is an important positive, regardless of the specialisation you choose.

And finally
Make the most of it, work as hard as you can and make sure you have a good work life balance. It is important that you give your time at University your best shot. If you are struggling do not be scared to ask for help, the staff are all very friendly and are willing to help so do not be intimidated.
Career paths of Strathclyde Chemistry Graduates

Layla
MSci Chemistry with Drug Discovery (graduated 2012)
Liquid Development Scientist, Diageo, Bishop’s Stortford

Best thing about your job?
Working within innovation is really exciting because it’s new and you get a chance to put your personality into everything you’re working on. It’s then great to go into shops and see your products on the shelf.

Previous work experience?
Materials Scientist (industrial placement), Diageo, Menstrie (2010-2011)

Why did you choose to study at Strathclyde?
The Chemistry department at Strathclyde has an excellent reputation and great links with industry

Would you recommend your course to others?
Definitely! It was a really great balance between chemistry, pharmacology and biology with plenty of practical chemistry.

Did your degree help you get your job?
Strathclyde’s reputation and industrial contacts helped me get my placement, and what I learned at university helped me do well during my placement.

Advice, hints or tips?
Choose your placement carefully and work really hard as chances are it can shape your future career both in terms of the network you build and the in-depth experience you gain in the field.

And finally
The industrial placement was one of the best things of my degree. It was great to gain first-hand experience in industry, build my network and to help prepare me for life after university.

Alex
MSci Forensic and Analytical Chemistry (graduated 2009)
Scientific Consultant, Search Scientific, Scotland

Best thing about your job?
The thing I love the most about my job is helping to find someone their dream job!

Previous work experience?
I worked for another scientific recruitment company but after only three months I was headhunted into my role at Search to set up the Scientific division for Scotland. I have now been here three years and although it has been challenging at times I am very lucky to have such a fantastic job.

Any industrial placement experience?
My industrial placement was carried out within the Analytical department at GlaxoSmithKline.

Best thing about your Strathclyde Chemistry course?
I work with many different universities and colleges and I think that Strathclyde offers fantastic hands-on practical experience within the labs.

Would you recommend your course to others?
I would absolutely recommend other students to take my course. The best part of the course for me was the industrial placement (not many other universities offer this). I know for a fact that this coupled with my degree is what helped me to secure my current role.

Advice, hints or tips?
I would advise students to not give up! When applying for jobs you are going to get rejections and knock backs but don’t let it dishearten you. Remember that it is a competitive marketplace so make sure you stand out from the crowd. Write a targeted cover letter, include techniques you have used in the lab, research the role you are applying for and let them know why you want to work for them.

Harry
MChem Chemistry (2013)
Graduate Development Programme, Forestry Commission Scotland, Aberfoyle

Best thing about your job?
Working with a variety of different people and spending a lot of time working outdoors.

Any industrial placement experience?
Scientist Intern, Procter & Gamble, Newcastle Innovation Centre (2011-2012)

Advice, hints or tips?
When choosing your course subjects, choose subjects you think you will enjoy as this will help you excel. The same applies when choosing your Industrial Placement; don’t be afraid to say what you’d like to do.

And finally
The Chemistry Department is full of great people always willing to help and listen.
Jenna
MSci Applied Chemistry and Chemical Engineering  
(graduated 2010)
Nuclear Process Engineer at DBD Ltd, Warrington

Best thing about your job?
The variety and the people – every day there is a new technical challenge to tackle and the people I work with have a vast range of knowledge and enjoy sharing their experience with the other younger employees. The company I work for has international links and as science and engineering are internationally applicable there are opportunities to work and travel, which I have taken advantage of.

Any industrial placement experience?
As I was on the joint degree course I did not have an industrial placement built into my course and therefore I took advantage of numerous summer placements, including the opportunity to go to Canada on an international placement scheme aimed at students with a technical background – IAESTE.

Any previous work experience?
R&D Chemist, Shepherd Widnes, Widnes
Summer Placement Student, University of Toronto (IAESTE)
Summer Placement Student, University of Strathclyde/Carron Phoenix
Summer Placement Student, GlaxoSmithKline, Harlow

Why did you choose to study at Strathclyde?
The teaching staff and general atmosphere on campus was friendly and welcoming and the city of Glasgow is ideal for student life.

Would you recommend your course to others?
Yes. My degree was jointly accredited by the Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE) and the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) which meant I had more career paths open to me than a student who had specialised in chemistry alone.

Advice, hints or tips?
If you decide to do the joint degree I would advise you take advantage of summer placements in order to get relevant industrial experience. If you have the opportunity to work abroad and experience a different culture and method of working I would highly recommend taking it as it is an excellent experience and looks great on the CV!

Timothy
BSc (Hons) Chemistry  
(graduated 2013)
PhD student at University of Strathclyde University

Best thing about your job?
I love chemistry and the fact that I get to do practical chemistry every day is very fulfilling. Watching research grow from an idea on a page to a practical experiment in the lab and beyond is fascinating and really exciting.

Best thing about your Strathclyde Chemistry course?
I really enjoyed my time at Strathclyde (so much so that I decided to stay and pursue a PhD). In my opinion the best part about the course was the practical labs. They were always really enjoyable and help to give understanding to the theory learned in lectures whilst teaching the all-important practical skills that a chemist requires.

Why did you choose to study at Strathclyde?
I had always known that I wanted to study in Glasgow. The science faculty at Strathclyde has a very good reputation and it was this that really made me want to come and study here.

Would you recommend your course to others?
I would definitely recommend chemistry at Strathclyde. The course is both fun and exciting and all the staff and lecturers are really nice and friendly. The course is holistic and will teach you everything you’ll need to know to become a world class chemist as well as transferable skills that can be applied to any workplace you may end up in.

How did your degree help you get your job / help you in your job?
I feel that the holistic nature of the chemistry degree at Strathclyde really helped me to get where I am now. While learning about theoretical and practical chemistry there was also a real emphasis on transferable skills such as scientific writing, CV preparation and also presentation skills. Which, even at this early stage of my PhD, have all proved invaluable.

Advice, hints or tips?
Don’t be afraid to approach the lecturers and the staff within the department if you’re having trouble or have a problem. They are all really approachable and always happy to help out.
Graduate Destinations

Employers of recent Strathclyde graduates include:

Biotech / Life Sciences
- BIOOUTSOURCE
- BROUGHTON LABORATORIES
- CHARLES RIVER LABORATORIES
- EVOTEC
- GERMAINS SEED TECHNOLOGY
- LANCASTER LABORATORIES

Government
- AWE PLC
- DEFENCE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY
- HMRC
- MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
- MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
- SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE
- SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Drinks & Food
- DEVRO
- DIAGEO PLC
- MONDELEZ
- TATLOCK AND THOMSON LTD

Energy, Environmental and Water
- ANATEC LIMITED
- ARGENT ENERGY UK
- BAKER HUGHES
- BEI WATER
- CHAMPION TECHNOLOGIES
- DAKRO ENVIRONMENTAL
- ECOLUTIA SERVICES LTD
- EKON MOBILE
- GEOTRACE
- JF MARINE
- MAXOIL SOLUTIONS
- PETROFAC
- SCALED SOLUTIONS LIMITED
- SCOTTISH WATER
- SELLAFIELD LTD

Financial
- BARCLAYS CAPITAL
- BLACK ROCK
- BUSINESS COST CONSULTANTS
- HENDERSON GLOBAL INVESTORS
- MORGAN STANLEY
- PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

Pharmaceutical / Medical / Medical Devices
- 3M HEALTHCARE
- AESICA PHARMACEUTICALS
- ALMAC SCIENCES
- ASTRazeneca
- COVANCE
- GLAXOSMITHKLINE
- MERCK MILLIPORE
- PIRAMAL HEALTHCARE
- PFIzER LTD
- NAPP
- NAPP PHARMACEUTICAL GROUP
- QUINTILES
- SELECT PHARMA LABORATORIES
- SOLID FORM SOLUTIONS
- WELLCOME TRUST

Teaching / Education
- INVERCLYDE COUNCIL
- STIRLING COUNCIL
- TWIG

Further study
A substantial number of our graduates also opted for PhD, Masters and PGDE study in chemistry, teaching, engineering and environmental science, in various locations including:

- University of Bern
- University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge
- University of Central Lancashire
- University of Glasgow
- University of Strathclyde

Industry, Chemical and other
- AMEC
- ATKINS
- BECOGENT
- BEGG COUSLAND AND CO LTD
- BODYCOTE
- BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO COMPANY
- CHEMRING ENERGETICS UK
- DUFONT MICROCIRCUIT MATERIALS
- DUFONT TEIJIN FILMS
- ELEMENTIS SPECIALITIES
- EXSURGO
- FABER MAUNSELL
- FUJIFILM
- FUJIFILM DIOSYNTH BIOTECHNOLOGIES
- HYCROME
- INNOVIA FILMS LTD
- INTEL
- JACOBS ENGINEERING
- JOHNSON MATTHEY CATALYSTS
- KRATON POLYMERS
- NITECH SOLUTIONS LTD
- NORBORD
- PARAGON INKS
- PCCL
- POLIMERI EUROPA
- PROMAT UK LTD
- RANDOX LABORATORIES
- RESTEK
- SCOTMIN NUTRITION
- SCOTTISH MARKETING CONCEPTS
- SMART HOLOGRAMS LTD
- TEIJIN DUPONT FILMS
- TUV NEL
- WILLIAM TRACEY GROUP
- WORLDMARK

Forensic Science and Police
- HOME OFFICE SCIENCE – CENTRE FOR APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CAST)
- LGC
- LGC FORENSICS
- LOTHIAN AND BORDERS POLICE
- READING SCIENTIFIC SERVICES LTD
- SPSA
- STRATHCLYDE POLICE

Further study
A substantial number of our graduates also opted for PhD, Masters and PGDE study in chemistry, teaching, engineering and environmental science, in various locations including:
- University of Bern
- University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge
- University of Central Lancashire
- University of Glasgow
- University of Strathclyde
My name is Anna Selwood and I am the Careers Adviser to the Science Faculty. It is my job to help and support you in whatever way you need in relation to your career ideas, while you study at Strathclyde and once you leave. Chemistry graduates work in a wide range of sectors and sometimes it can be difficult to make a choice about what career path to follow. I can help you to reflect on your skills and explore the options that are available, so you are able to make informed decisions about what is right for you. I am here to support you from day one at University and you will get to know me through the talks I will be giving during the year in your timetabled lectures. You can also come along to ‘drop-in’ at the Careers Service for a chat at any point during your course.

Employers are not only interested in your grades; they also value the skills you develop through study and work. You should plan to make the most of all that Strathclyde has to offer and enjoy your time at university. I encourage you to explore the range of opportunities that exist to develop the skills employers expect from Strathclyde graduates. There are so many exciting possibilities, for example study or work abroad, getting involved in student societies, becoming a class rep and, for many of you, an industrial placement later on.

The 2014 High Fliers review of the graduate market, which surveys the top 100 Graduate Recruiters, reports that “37% of all graduate vacancies were filled by those who had already completed work experience with that employer.” So if you do not have a placement as part of your course, we encourage you to apply for a summer position.

We have a dedicated employer engagement team as part of the Careers Service that, among other things, manages our vacancy service providing a wide range of part-time jobs, volunteering opportunities, summer internships and competitions. They also organise employer-led skills and information sessions on campus, which are a great way for you to connect with employers. Look out for Careers Week in January and July and the Scottish Graduate Fair in October.

During lectures I will talk to you about identifying, and reflecting on, your skills and how to use that knowledge to prepare a CV to ensure you know how to market your experience and skills as effectively as possible. I will deliver sessions on interview skills, as many of you will be speaking to potential placement employers, and options that are open to you in work and further study.

It can take time to make your mind up about the career that is right for you so don’t wait until you come to the end of your course to think about this. In addition I offer one-to-one support on CVs and applications. Many students opt to arrange a practice interview with me to work on their technique and confidence through constructive feedback. The application process for graduate employment and further study can seem a bit daunting at first but the Careers Service is here to help from CV advice to preparing for assessment centres.

We speak to employers who want to recruit from all subject areas and the message we get is that the skills of science graduates are highly desirable. It is my job to support you in articulating this so I look forward to working with you. Have a look at our website www.strath.ac.uk/careers so that you know how to make the most of our services from first year.

Further help and advice

Graduate profiles and further information about careers for Chemistry graduates can be found at:

Royal Society of Chemistry:
http://www.rsc.org/Gateway/Subject/Careers/

University of Strathclyde Careers Service
Anna Selwood
Level 6, Livingstone Tower
26 Richmond Street, G1 1XH
Tel: 0141 548 4320
www.strath.ac.uk/careers
If you would like to find out more about opportunities for Chemistry graduates, our Industrial Placement scheme or any of our courses, please contact us using the details below.

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