

Young Strathclyde: Accelerate

Chemistry Challenge

8th - 12th June 2026

Accelerate is a one-week programme, held at the University of Strathclyde, for pupils who have just gone into S5 and S6. It aims to provide a targeted focus on the pupils' chosen area of academic interest, giving them a head start on the road to their chosen career.

There are ten areas that you can choose from in 2026, depending on your career aspirations:

- **Business**
- **Chemistry**
- **Chemical Engineering**
- **Computer Science**
- **Education**
- **Electronic & Electrical Engineering**
- **Languages & International Communication**
- **Law**
- **Politics**
- **Product Design**

Teams of academic experts have put together week-long Challenges in each of these areas that will allow pupils to find out all about their area of interest and the career opportunities open to them. Led by undergraduate and postgraduate student mentors from the relevant fields, pupils will undertake a variety of group challenges, as well as attending career workshops and getting a chance to see what student life is like.

The Chemistry Challenge: Outline

The Chemistry Challenge has three main aims:

- To provide you with insight and information about the various academic courses and work opportunities that there are in the field of Chemistry.
- To allow you to discuss career and education options with a wide variety of professionals and academics while being treated as a real University student for the week.
- To allow you to take part in group challenges that will allow you to put into practice the expertise in Chemistry that you will gain during the week.



University staff and current Chemistry students will act as your mentors throughout the week and will be on hand as a resource of advice and information.

You will work in groups in the chemistry lab, developing techniques for making and analysing the painkiller paracetamol. As well as making your own batch of the medicine, you will use the University's analytical chemistry instruments to analyse some paracetamol from over-the-counter medicines. Students will also spend time looking at the health and safety issues involved in making a medicine and how safe paracetamol is for humans. By allowing you to take part in the production and analysis of real medicine and find out more about Chemistry's role in the world, we are sure that this challenge will make you feel much more enthusiastic about studying Chemistry in school and going on to study at University.

Our Chemistry careers and industry presentations, will also allow you to see the future opportunities available to you and the whole week will offer you a taste of what it is really like to be a University student.

If you would like to take part in the Chemistry Challenge, you should be:

- ***Currently studying Nat 5 Chemistry/passed by the start of the challenge***
- ***Currently studying Nat 5 Maths/passed by the start of the challenge***
- ***On a pathway to Higher Maths, not Applications of Mathematics***

The Chemistry challenge has official accreditation on the SCQF Framework. This means that there will be some assessment on this challenge and, should you pass this, you will gain 10 credits at level 7. Level 7 is the same as Advanced Higher or first year University work.

What previous Chemistry Challenge participants have said about the programme:

"I thought the accelerate programme expanded my knowledge on chemistry, university, and applying to university."

"Allowed me to make good friends, experience working in a professional lab, explore areas of the campus, step out of my comfort zone and enhance my confidence and develop my knowledge of Chemistry"

"I really enjoyed the challenge and I feel as if it has better prepared me to study at University, I also enjoyed all the lab experience I gained."

"I thought the programme was a great opportunity to meet new people and study at a 1st year uni level."

For further information, visit:

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/professionalservices/accessequalityinclusionservice/wideningaccess/gettingready/accelerate/>

or contact us at accelerate-programme@strath.ac.uk.