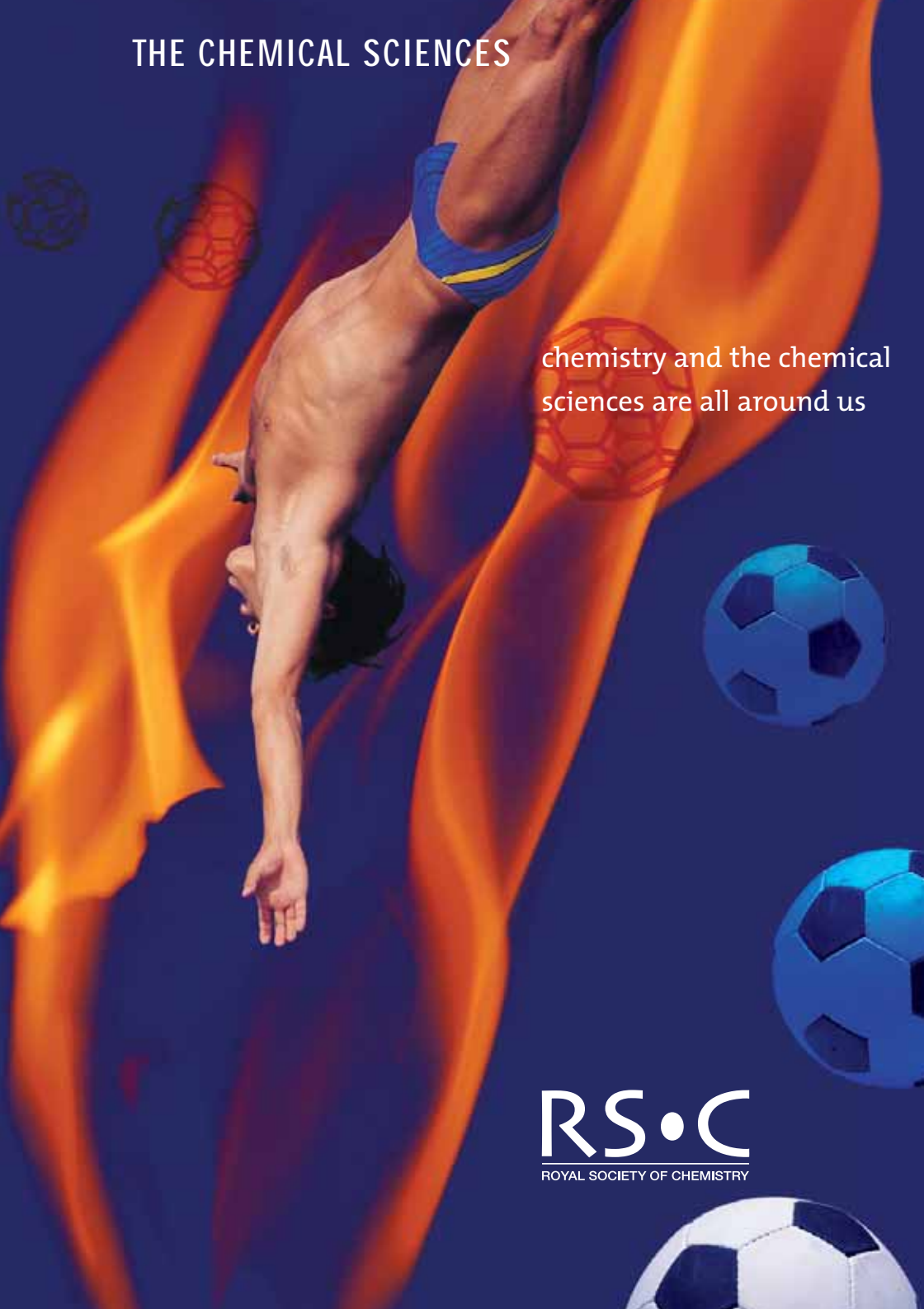


THE CHEMICAL SCIENCES

chemistry and the chemical sciences are all around us

RS•C
ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY



CHOOSING A DEGREE

the essential guide

have our

scientists and chemists can help

bodies

us count our calories, improve

reached their

our vitamin intake, produce

limit, can

equipment from new materials

records still

to reduce stress on joints and

be broken or

muscles, improve prosthetics for

are athletes

disabled athletes and they

burning out

could use clues in our genetic

before their

code to improve our wellbeing

time?

Chemical sciences are about the very essence of life, the quality of life and its continuous improvement.

A chemical science degree can take you anywhere. It can open windows of opportunity from marine chemistry to chemical engineering; food chemistry to neurochemistry; environmental chemistry to biological chemistry; pharmaceutical chemistry and beyond. It is also excellent preparation for a business career.

From developing life-enhancing drugs to designing a new beer, from the law to the environment, from clothing to food, from health to manufacturing, from aviation to the City, chemistry and chemical scientists make an impact on, and play a vital role in, our daily life and routines.



Interested in chemical sciences but not sure which degree to do? Then read on...

There is a wide variety of chemical science degree courses on offer in the UK. Courses vary in content, duration and the qualification you achieve. Some courses allow you to spend a year studying abroad or in industry. Below is a simple guide to the different types of courses available.

BSc or MChem/MSci?

Most universities now offer both BSc and MChem/MSci degree programmes. MChem and MSci degrees have exactly the same status as each other. These Masters degree courses simply have different names at different universities.

BSc degrees

- usually involve studying for three years (or four in Scotland)
- provide excellent training in the chemical sciences and can open doors to careers in a huge range of employment sectors
- not usually used on their own as the basis for a career in chemical science research.

MChem/MSci degrees

- usually involve studying for four years (or five in Scotland)
- provide a more in-depth study of chemistry than BSc degrees and usually involve a significant research project
- offer more opportunities to develop skills such as presentation skills, problem solving and communication skills.

If you're not sure whether you want to do a BSc or an MChem/MSci many universities recommend that you apply for the longer course in the first instance. Transferring from an MChem/MSci degree programme to a BSc is usually relatively straightforward.

Chemistry with industrial experience

Many universities offer MChem/MSci courses that involve a period of study in industry, often the third year of study. A few BSc courses also involve some form of industrial placement. Some universities offer five-year MChem/MSci degree courses with an industrial placement in the fourth year.

Students are usually paid by industry during their placement year. Typical salaries approach those paid to new graduate employees.

Chemistry with a year abroad

There are lots of MChem/MSci chemical science degree programmes (and some BSc courses) on offer that involve a year at a university abroad. You could spend the year in Europe, the USA or even Asia or Australia.

The first two years of these courses are normally spent following the appropriate chemical science programme in a UK university and acquiring any language skills you might need whilst abroad. You will then spend the third year studying abroad. During this year you will follow the syllabus of the host university and will be assessed before returning to the UK for your final year.

Chemistry 'and' courses

These courses generally involve spending $\frac{1}{2}$ of your time studying chemistry, and $\frac{1}{2}$ studying another subject e.g.

- Chemistry and Molecular Physics
- Chemistry and Nanomaterials Science
- Chemistry and Biology of Food

Chemistry 'with' courses

These courses generally involve spending at least $\frac{2}{3}$ of your time studying chemistry, and the remainder studying another subject e.g.

- Chemistry with Management
- Chemistry with French
- Chemistry with Environmental Science



Other things to think about

- What are the entry requirements for the course I'd like to do and am I likely to meet them?
- Might a foundation year course be suitable for me if I don't expect to meet the requirements for the standard course I'd like to do?
- What subsidiary subjects can I study? Most degree courses allow you to study something alongside the compulsory content of your main subject in the first year.
- Where will I feel most comfortable? Near home? On a campus? In a city?

Once you've got an idea what you'd like to do, talk to your parents, teachers and university admission tutors about these and any other questions you have. Try to go to some university open days – these are a great way to get answers to lots of questions and to find out about the place you'll be living and studying in for the next few years. You can also find lots more useful information at www.rsc.org/studentzone

RSC recognised and accredited degree courses

The RSC recognises and accredits a wide range of chemical science degrees with academic content that meets specified standards. A list of the chemical science courses accredited by the RSC is available at www.rsc.org/education.

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The logo for the Royal Society of Chemistry, consisting of the letters 'R', 'S', and 'C' in a large, bold, serif font. A small black dot is positioned between the 'S' and the 'C'.

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