If you require an accessible version of the document, please contact Undergraduate Admissions by email (uao.comms@admin.ox.ac.uk) or via the online form (http://www.ox.ac.uk/ask).

Chemistry Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025

Chemistry is a wide-ranging science concerned with matter at the atomic and molecular scale. Important aspects are:

- synthesis
- structure
- reaction mechanisms
- properties
- analysis
- and transformations of all types of materials.

Chemists are a constant source of innovation: it is hard to imagine any product introduced in recent times that did not require the creative efforts of a chemist.

Chemistry underpins the conceptual framework and methodology of biochemistry and molecular medicine and is at the heart of many major industries.

Teaching and research are closely linked on the course: Oxford has one of the leading chemistry departments in the world with state-of-the-art teaching and research laboratories and world-class research in a broad range of areas including:

- synthesis and catalysis
- medicinal and biological chemistry
- sustainable energy
- advanced materials
- innovative measurement
- theoretical and computational chemistry.

Students will be taught an exciting practical course in our recently-built lab. The department has an outstanding track record in commercialising the innovative work of research staff, which has raised millions of pounds for the University.

The MChem is a four-year course and is not modular, in the sense that the subject is taught and examined as a whole, enabling us to explore the links within the subject.

The core material is taken by all students, with opportunities to specialise later in the course.

The fourth year (Part II) is devoted exclusively to research – a distinctive feature of Chemistry at Oxford since 1916.

To hear more about Chemistry at Oxford, visit our video: Chemistry at Oxford.

To hear more about our undergraduate Teaching Labs, visit our video: Chemistry Teaching Laboratory.

Work placements/international opportunities

The fourth year (Part II) of the course involves full-time work within an established research group, which offers the possibility for a few students to spend time at laboratories in industry or at universities abroad.

Many students find work placements during vacations through the Careers Service and there are some opportunities within the department.

A typical week (Years 1-3)

- Ten lectures (9am to 11am)
- One or two tutorials in your college with set work to be completed in your own time
- Two afternoons of laboratory work (11am to 5pm)
- A problems class, eg a mathematics class in the first year.

Tutorials are usually 2-4 students with a tutor. Class sizes may vary but would usually be no more than around 15 students and can be as small as four.

Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by academic staff who are members of the department. Many are world-leading experts with years of experience in teaching and research.

Some teaching may also be delivered by postgraduate students who are usually studying at doctorate level.

A typical week (Part II, Year 4)

Part II (the fourth year) involves full-time work with an established research group. Devoting the fourth year exclusively to research has been a distinctive feature of Chemistry at Oxford since 1916 and this will give you research skills that are highly valued by both academics and employers.

This final research year of the Chemistry course has three extended terms of 12 to 13 weeks (instead of the normal eight weeks) and is 38 weeks in total.

To hear more about how our undergraduate course works, visit our video: The Oxford MChem course.

To find out more about how our teaching year is structured, visit our Academic Year page.

Course structure

YEAR 1	
COURSES The first year of the course covers the traditional areas of Inorganic, Organic and Physical Chemistry, together with Mathematics for Chemistry. These are broadly based, and include topics such as Biological	**ASSESSMENT** Preliminary examination: four written papers; practical work.

YEAR 1	
Chemistry and Physics, which are presented in a chemical context. Students are taught through practical work, lectures and small group classes and tutorials.	

YEAR 2	
COURSES During the second year of the course, students build up their understanding of the subject and cover most of the core material in the degree. Examples of some of the topics included are: • Theoretical chemistry • Biological chemistry • Molecular spectroscopy • Synthetic chemistry. Students are taught through practical work, lectures and small group classes and tutorials.	**ASSESSMENT** Part IA examinations: three written papers; continuous assessment of practical work.

YEAR 3	
COURSES The third year begins by completing the core material, followed by a wide variety of options courses, some of which relate to research interests in the department. Students are taught through practical work, lectures and small group classes and tutorials.	**ASSESSMENT** Part IB examinations: seven written papers; continuous assessment of practical work.

YEAR 4 (extended terms)	
RESEARCH The fourth year is spent exclusively on research, providing students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in a significant project in one of the world's premier research departments. Students are supervised by a member of academic staff and have full access to the research facilities of their host laboratory.	**ASSESSMENT** Part II examination: thesis; oral examination. The final degree classification is determined at the end of the fourth year.

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after registration. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions.

Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2025.

Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

Please note that while the University sets out its annual fees as a single figure, this is a combined figure for both your University and college fees. More information is provided in your Terms and Conditions.

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,535
Overseas (including most EU students – see Note below)	£59,260

Note: Irish nationals living in the UK or Ireland, EU, other EEA, and Swiss nationals who have been granted settled or pre-settled status in the UK under the EU settlement scheme are eligible for 'Home fee' status and student loan support, subject to meeting residency requirements. We will contact you directly if we need further information from you to determine your fee status.

Please refer to the Undergraduate fee status pages for more information.

Living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2025 are estimated to be between £1,425 and £2,035 for each month you are in Oxford. Our academic year is made up of three eight-week terms, so you would not usually need to be in Oxford for much more than six months of the year but may wish to

budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs. For further details please visit our living costs webpage.

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	**Upper range**	**Lower range**	**Upper range**
Food	£330	£515	£2,970	£4,635
Accommodation	£790	£955	£7,110	£8,595
Personal items	£200	£335	£1,800	£3,015
Social activities	£45	£100	£405	£900
Study costs	£40	£90	£360	£810
Other	£20	£40	£180	£360
Total	£1,425	£2,035	£12,825	£18,315

In order to provide these likely living costs (which are rounded to the nearest £5), the University and the Oxford SU conducted a living costs survey to complement existing student expenditure data from a variety of sources, including the UK government's Student Income and Expenditure Survey and the National Union of Students (NUS).

The current economic climate and high national rate of inflation make it very hard to estimate potential changes to the cost of living over the next few years. When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2025-26, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of around 4% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

Additional Fees and Charges Information for Chemistry

Students in their fourth year undertake full-time research under the supervision of a member of the academic staff. This final year has three extended terms of 12 to 13 weeks and is 38 weeks in total, so you will need to budget for higher living costs in the final year, as you will be required to be in Oxford for longer than the standard terms. (View the likely range of living costs for an additional month in Oxford.) This final year, which is entirely devoted to research, is a unique feature of the Oxford course, and will give you research skills that are highly valued by both academics and employers.