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| **Job title** | Chemist |
| **Description** | Chemists study chemicals and materials and how they behave under different conditions. |
| **Entry requirements:**  | You'll usually need a **degree qualification** to become a chemist. Subjects include:* Chemistry
* Applied or analytical chemistry
* Biochemistry

As well as a degree, many employers will also want you to have a relevant postgraduate qualification.Some universities offer an extended degree which leads directly to a postgraduate qualification like an MChem or MSci. These courses have more independent research and can lead directly into professional practice or further postgraduate study.**Entry requirements**You'll usually need:* 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), including maths and a science
* At least 2 or 3 A levels, including chemistry
* A degree in a relevant subject for postgraduate study

You may be able to get into this career through a laboratory scientist **higher apprenticeship**.**Entry requirements**You'll usually need:* 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C) and college qualifications like A levels for a higher or a degree apprenticeship
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| **Skills required:**  | You'll need:* Knowledge of chemistry including the safe use and disposal of chemicals
* Maths knowledge
* Science skills
* Excellent verbal communication skills
* Complex problem-solving skills
* To be thorough and pay attention to detail
* Analytical thinking skills
* The ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
* To be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently
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| **What you'll do:**  | Depending on your role, you could be:* Inventing and developing new medicines and products
* Investigating environmental issues
* Diagnosing and treating illness and disease
* Analysing forensic evidence
* Teaching, lecturing and carrying out academic research

Your day-to-day tasks may include:* Designing and conducting laboratory experiments
* Making observations and noting results
* Writing reports and presenting your findings
* Supervising the work of support staff such as laboratory technicians
* Carrying out other administrative work
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| **What you’ll earn:** **[*These figures are a guide.]*** | Starter: £18, 000Experienced: £50, 000*.* |
| **Working hours, patterns and environment:** | * You could work at a research facility or in a laboratory.
* You may need to wear protective clothing.
* 39 to 41 hours occasionally working weekends
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| **Career path and progression:** | * You'll usually be able to find work with a wide range of employers including the NHS, public health laboratories, research institutes and government agencies.
* As a chemist working in industry, you could be involved in research and development, patent work, health and safety or forensic science.
* You could also move into teaching or a career in the media.
* As an experienced chemist you could work towards[chartered status](http://www.rsc.org/careers/cpd/practising-scientists/chartered-status/) like Chartered Chemist (CChem) and Chartered Scientist (CSci).
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