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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 |
| **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 |
| **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 |
| **What you’ll earn:**  **[*These figures are a guide.]*** | Starter: £18, 000  Experienced: £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 |
| **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). |