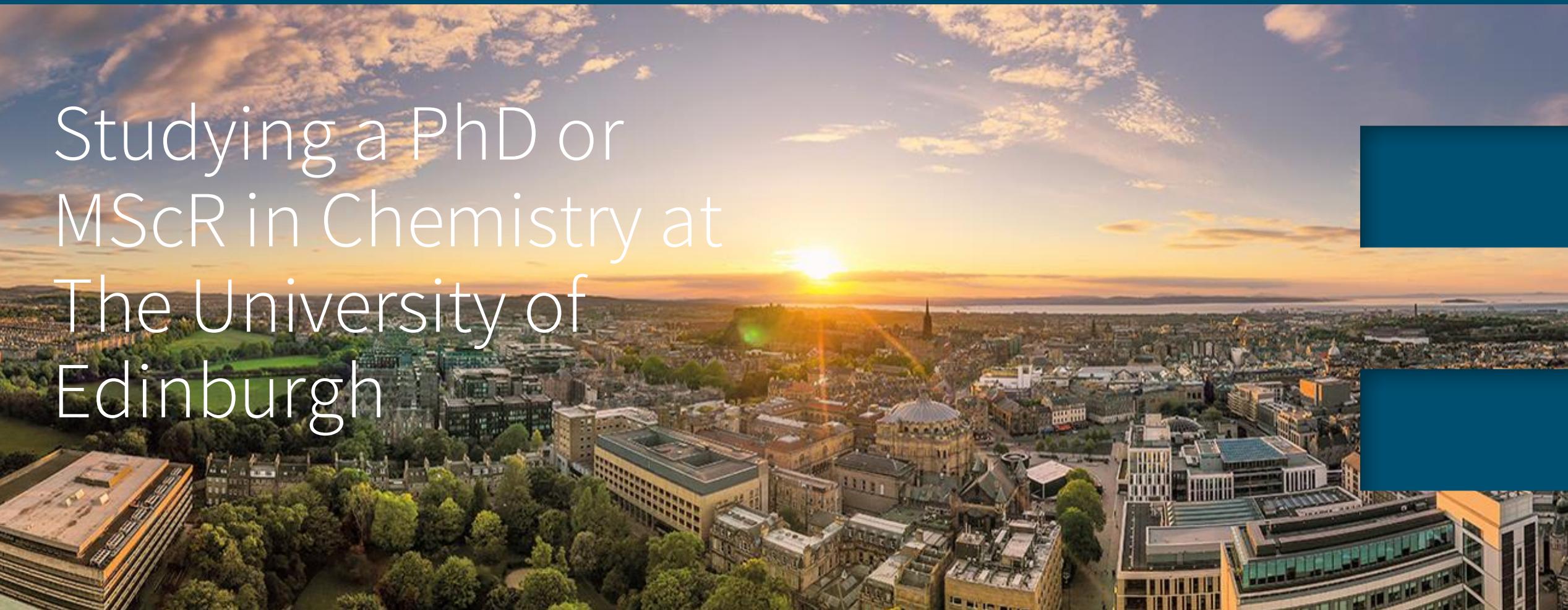




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Studying a PhD or
MScR in Chemistry at
The University of
Edinburgh



Prof Euan Brechin, Director of the Graduate School

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extraordinary futures await

The City of Edinburgh

- Population around 500,000 – students make up over one tenth
- Historic, cosmopolitan, safe, cultured city
- One of the most vibrant cities in Europe and most desirable places to live
- TimeOut ranked Edinburgh #1 Best Cities in the World (2022)
- World's first UNESCO City of Literature
- Home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- 12 annual festivals, including the world's largest arts festival
- Financial centre
- Excellent transport networks



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The University – Historic & Prestigious

- Founded in 1583
- Ranked 3rd in UK and 6th in Europe for sustainability (QS) 2024
- Ranked 4th in the UK Research Excellence Framework 2021 by power ranking
- Associated with 18 Nobel Prize winners - in areas such as Chemistry, Physics, Medicine, Economics
- Peter Higgs, Nobel laureate in Physics (2013)
- Sir Fraser Stoddart, joint winner of Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2016 for the design and synthesis of molecular machines (BSc & PhD from School of Chemistry)
- 41% of students from outside the UK



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Distinguished Alumni

Charles Darwin, Naturalist

David Hume, Philosopher

Joseph Lister, Surgeon

Piers Sellers, NASA Astronaut

Gordon Brown, UK Prime Minister

Adam Smith, Economist

James Clerk Maxwell, Physicist

Sir Walter Scott, Writer

Robert Louis Stevenson, Writer

JK Rowling, Writer

John Witherspoon, signatory of *US Declaration of Independence*

Sir Christopher Hoy, three gold medals at Beijing Olympics

Peter Higgs, 2013 Nobel laureate in Physics

Sir Fraser Stoddart, 2016 Nobel laureate in Chemistry



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College of Science & Engineering

Schools:

Biological Sciences

Chemistry

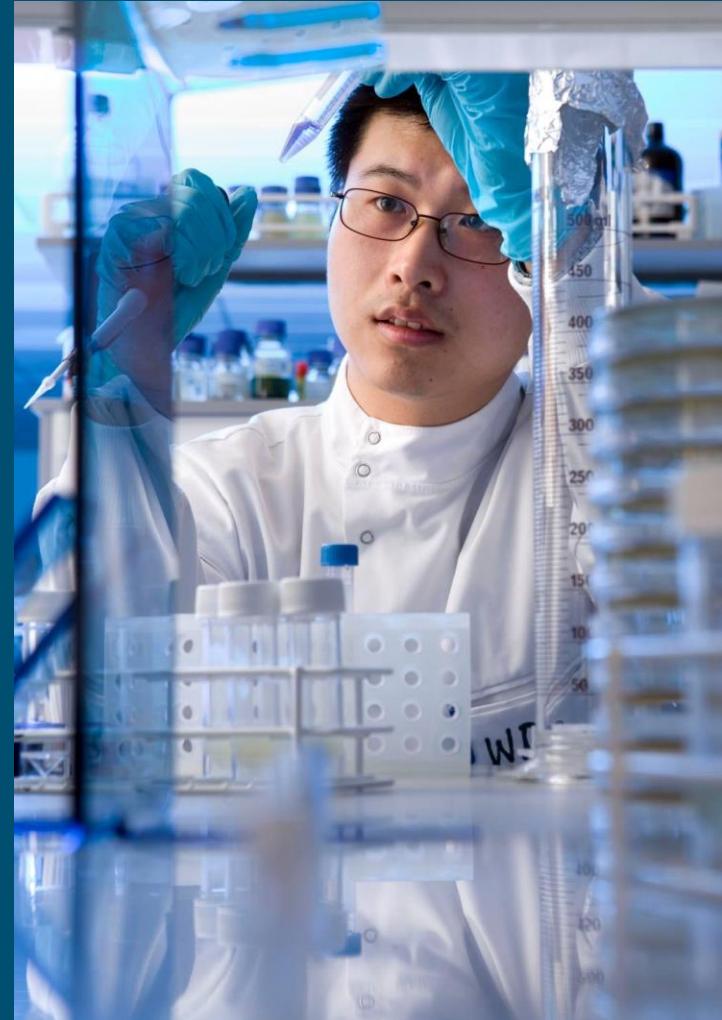
Engineering

Geosciences

Informatics

Mathematics

Physics & Astronomy



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The School of Chemistry



- Founded in 1713
- Oldest Chemical Society in the World - 1785
- Joseph Black (1755) – discovered CO₂
- Alexander Crum Brown (1869) – pioneer of molecular models

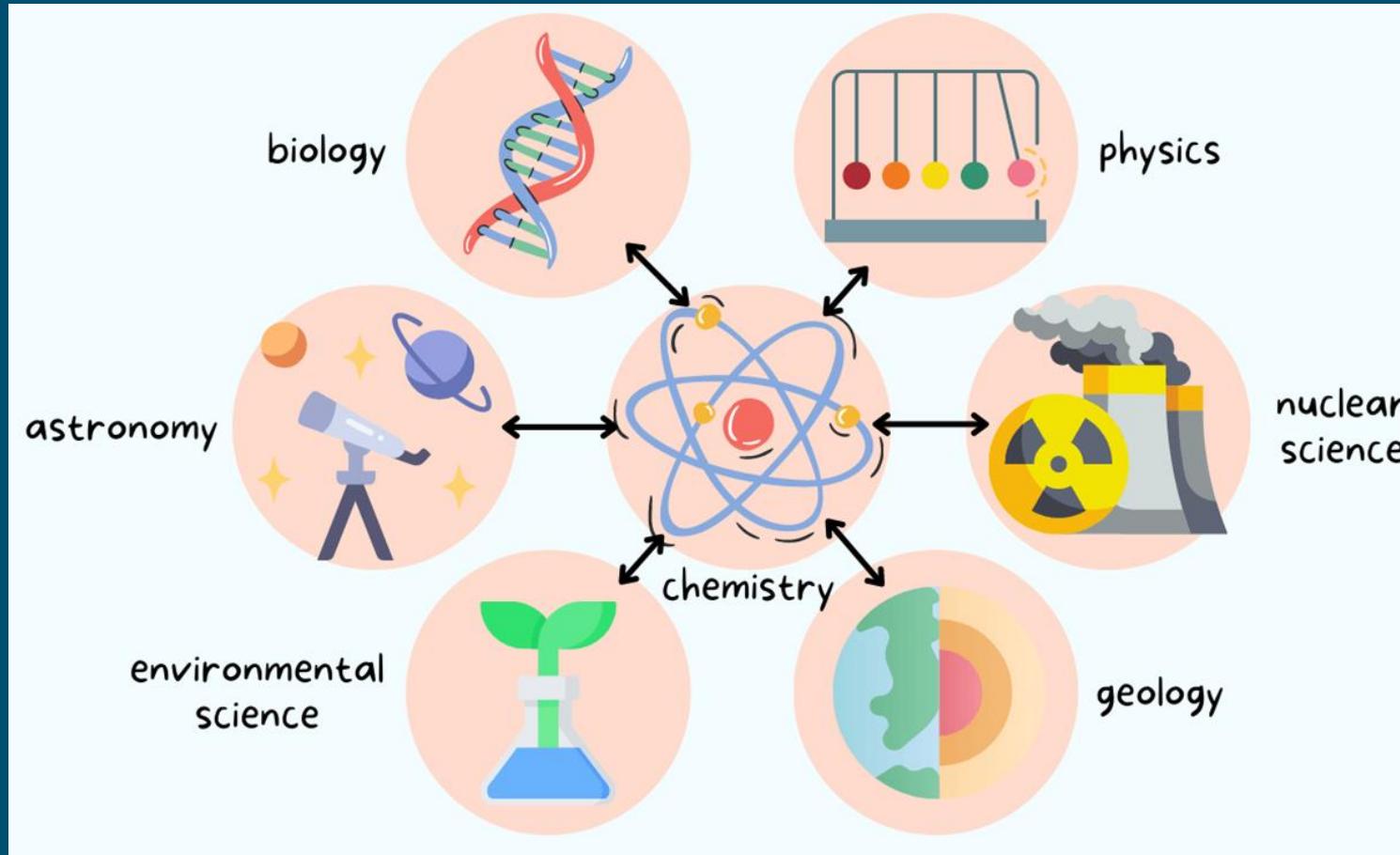


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Why study Chemistry?

Chemistry is the key enabling science; the “central” science



Chemistry staff collaborate widely, with colleagues in all six other schools in the CSE



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Postgraduate Research Programmes in the School of Chemistry



MScR in Chemistry

The MSc by Research is a 12-month program in which the student joins one of the groups at the School of Chemistry to conduct original research on a particular topic.



PhD in Chemistry

The PhD is a research programme in which the student conducts an original research project over the course of 3.5 years in one of the groups at the School of Chemistry.

A supervisor is required for both programs



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Research Areas in the School of Chemistry

- **Synthesis and Catalysis:** *Simple, effective, and clean routes to preparing molecules and materials;*
- **Structural Chemistry and Chemical Dynamics:** *Developing techniques to solve structural chemistry problems and understanding how atoms and molecules interact;*
- **Energy, Environmental and Sustainable Chemistry:** *Tackling the need for secure energy supplies and limiting society's reliance on non-sustainable feedstocks;*
- **Functional Materials:** *Research that designs and characterises functional solids for applications ranging from energy solutions to industrial catalysis;*
- **Chemistry-Biology Interface:** *Using chemical techniques that are applied to study biological systems.*

More information about the research areas and the groups working in each can be found here:
<http://www.chem.ed.ac.uk/research/research-themes>



International Culture – social events, English language support, buddy system, ChemSoc



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Joseph Black Conference



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Non-scientific training – Institute for Academic Development (IAD)



INSTITUTE FOR ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

Undergraduates Postgraduates Research roles Learning & teaching roles Working with us IAD support & funding About us

Postgraduate taught students + Home > Institute for Academic Development > Postgraduates

Doctoral researchers + Postgraduates

Workshop, resources and advice for taught and research postgraduates.

Postgraduate taught students 

Postgraduate Researchers 

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/institute-academic-development/postgraduate>



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Courses and Events

Workshops

Advice and support

Career management

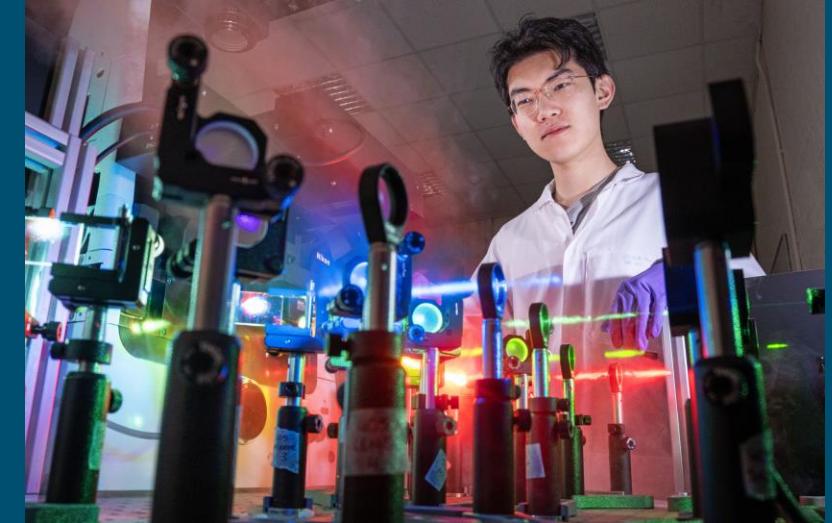
Networks and forums

Funding and resources

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Funding for MScR and PhD

- The MScR programme incurs a tuition fee.
<https://www.ed.ac.uk/tuition-fees>
- Funding for the PhD program covering both the tuition fees and stipends are available either in the form of fully funded studentships or as part of training programmes.



How to find a PhD studentship?

- Fully funded PhD studentships are advertised in the School website:

<http://www.chem.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate-research/studentships/fully-funded-studentships>

And also on www.findaphd.com

- Prize scholarships (deadlines for application usually around January):

- Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship
- China Scholarship Council
- Brian Phillips Scholarship

The full list with further information can be found here:

<http://www.chem.ed.ac.uk/studying/phd/studentships/prize-phd-scholarships>

- Doctoral Training Programs (DTPs) and Centres for Doctoral Training (CDT)

- Government scholarships (specific to each country);

- We also accept self-funded students who cover their tuition fees and living expenses



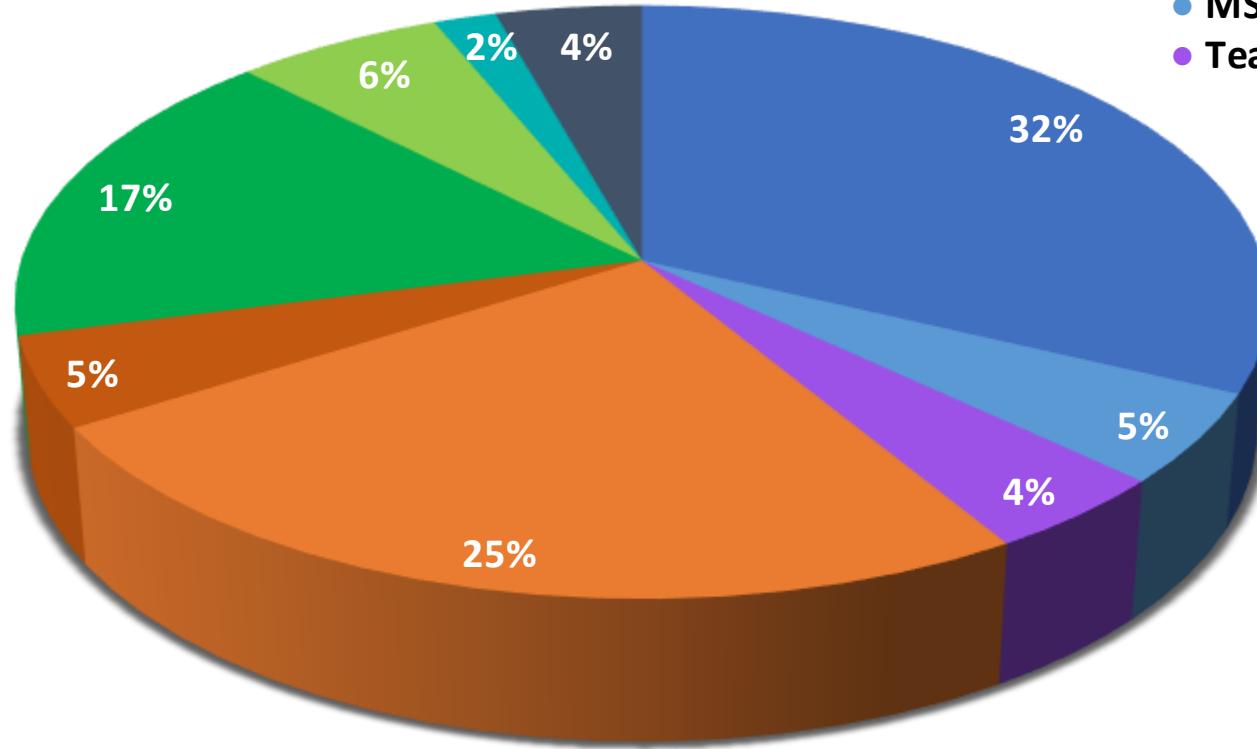
After Graduation

Destinations of recent UoE Chemistry graduates:

29%

Outside of Chemistry

- Finance and Business
- IT, Data and Software
- Other STEM industry
- Other non-STEM industry
(e.g., public sector, law, arts)



41%

Further study & training

- PhD or equivalent
- MSc or equivalent
- Teaching (including PGCE/PGDE)

Graduate Outcomes Survey 2021/22

15 months after graduation:

- 96% of responders employed or in further study
- 89% of responders in highly skilled employment and further study
- Employers of previous graduates include Charles River, KPMG, P&G, GSK, Almac Sciences, AstraZeneca.

30%

Chemistry Professionals

- Chemical industry
- Pharmaceuticals

Chart data sourced from Graduate Outcomes Survey 2019/2020, 2020/2021 and 2021/2022



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Meet our Alumni

Jingyi Ran



Jingyi completed her MScR in 2017 and went on to pursue a PhD in Los Angeles. Since completing her postgraduate studies, she has worked as a battery testing and data engineer in Houston, Texas.

Panos Kolyvakis



After spending 8 years at the University completing his BSc and PhD in Chemistry, Panos went on to lecture in Environmental Engineering and has since pivoted to a career in Data Science.

Tianyue Li



Tianyue finished her PhD with the Robertson group in 2019. Today, Tianyue uses her communication skills to deliver impact in the field of renewable energy.

<http://www.chem.ed.ac.uk/community/alumni/profiles>

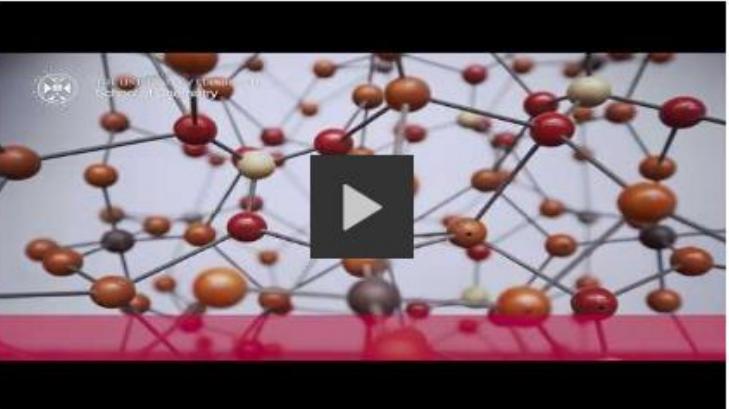


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Lots of information on our web pages

The School in 60 Seconds



Student Experience



Hear what our students think about what it's like studying Chemistry at Edinburgh University.

Undergraduate



- Undergraduate Degrees
- Applying

PhD



The School provides a broad range of Research degrees.

Masters



One year courses teaching advanced chemistry.

www.chem.ed.ac.uk/studying



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Any questions?

Please email me if you would like any help or advice about studying chemistry at Edinburgh

Prof Euan Brechin

ebrechin@ed.ac.uk

[School of Chemistry website](#)

<http://www.chem.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate-research>

[UoE Prospective Students website](#)

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate>



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