

Laboratory Scientist Degree Apprenticeship (Chemistry) Level 6

At the University of Wolverhampton, we have extended the development of our Chemistry provision to deliver a route to BSc (Hons) in Chemistry as part of the Science Industry Partnership (SIP) laboratory scientist apprenticeship initiative.

In conjunction with a variety of chemical companies, the Science Industry Assessment Service has provided work-based learning guides for both laboratory technicians and laboratory scientists. In response to this, our BSc (Hons) Chemistry programme has been modified to incorporate modules of work-based learning and to provide the academic underpinning for the Laboratory Scientist Degree Apprenticeship (Chemistry).

The Apprenticeship route is spread over five years and represents an excellent opportunity for someone joining or working in the chemistry industry, by linking the Apprenticeship to both work-based development and part-time day release study at the University.

Key transferable skills, covering planning and organisation, study skills, handling information, communication skills, working with others, scientific and practical skills, improving learning and performance, information communication technology and problem solving, are also developed using reflective practice and a continuing professional development approach.

This Apprenticeship is recognised by the Science Council at Registered Scientist (RSci) level.



Job roles/Occupations

The typical job role can be described as a laboratory scientist who can apply specialist knowledge and a broad scientific understanding to carry out a range of technical and scientific activities in their specialist chemistry-based discipline.

The laboratory scientist should be able to analyse, interpret and evaluate relevant scientific information, concepts and ideas and use these to propose solutions to chemistry-based problems. They should be able to work autonomously on defined projects under the supervision of a senior scientist and as part of a wider scientific team. They deliver scientific value to their organisation, whilst contributing to the development of others.

How it works

The Apprenticeship requires the company release the apprentice one day per week during term-time to attend University to study for the degree (as part of the knowledge requirement of this Apprenticeship).

The academic qualification BSc (Hons) Chemistry comprises level 4, 5 and 6 modules that are offered via part-time day release. Modules are rated at 20 credits each with the exception of the final honours research project which is 40 credits. Each of the key pillars of chemistry – organic, inorganic, physical and analytical chemistry – are represented at each level of the course and most modules comprise both theory and practical components. Practical work associated with theory modules will be delivered as an intensive week-long block typically at the end of May or early June. The Apprenticeship will take 5 years to complete.

Skills and training will be delivered through a combination of learning methods including lectures, tutorials, seminar/workshops, practical work in the laboratory, online learning and employer-led projects. The University will work with the employer to ensure that the 20% off-the-job training is met.

Benefits

This Degree Apprenticeship will provide individuals with enhanced skills, knowledge and experience in a range of chemistry-based disciplines that can be applied to the benefit of their area of business.

At the end of the course, the apprentice will be able to: demonstrate practical skills, work safely in the laboratory and be fully conversant with standard chemical techniques; survey and critically review scientific information; demonstrate a systematic understanding of physical chemistry and physicochemical principles and apply that knowledge to theoretical and practical problem solving; demonstrate and apply knowledge of a range of inorganic and organic chemical materials; demonstrate and apply knowledge of a range of analytical techniques; and demonstrate an awareness of a range of issues within chemistry that overlap with other related disciplines.

Qualifications

As a successful apprentice, you will achieve a BSc (Hons) Chemistry and be able to apply for professional registration as RSci with a professional body. The end point assessment for this programme includes a vocational competence evaluation log and discussion.

Entry requirements

The apprentice must be at least 18 years of age and employed in a relevant role in the chemistry industry.

Applicants would normally have 5 GCSEs at grade C or above, including English, maths and a science subject and hold relevant Level 3 qualifications (A-level, CCC or AA; BTEC MMM or DD or equivalents) with a minimum of 96 UCAS points.

Other relevant or prior experience may also be considered as an alternative. Age and experience are recognised and prospective apprentices may be required to attend an interview.

Fees and funding

For employers with a payroll below £3 million: The Government will pay 95% of the cost of the Apprenticeship training and assessment for apprentices of any age, for employers who will not be paying the Apprenticeship Levy. You may also be eligible for extra employer incentives.

For employers with a payroll above £3 million: Employers will be able to use their Apprenticeship Levy contributions towards the cost of the Apprenticeship using their digital account. We will agree a payment schedule and discuss funding availability before you start your apprenticeships and ensure the cost to your business is clear upfront.

Register your interest

Call: **0800 953 3222**

Visit: wlv.ac.uk/apprenticeships

Email: apprenticeshiphub@wlv.ac.uk