

Programme Information		
Programme Title	Programme Code	HECoS Code
MSci Chemistry with Research Abroad	F104	For Registry Use Only

Award	Length of Study	Mode of Study	Entry Point(s)	Total Credits	
				ECTS	CATS
MSci Honours degree	4 years	Full time	Annually in October	240	480
BSc degree [†] - F100	N/A	N/A	N/A	180	360
Diploma of Higher Education* - F103D	N/A	N/A	N/A	120	240
Certificate of Higher Education* - F103C	N/A	N/A	N/A	60	120

[†]A BSc exit degree may be awarded to students on an MSci Honours degree, who wish to conclude their studies at the end of their third year. An Honours classification requires the third year meets all requirements for the BSc (Hons).

*The Certificate/Diploma of Higher Education are exit awards and are not available for entry.

You must apply to and join a BSc or MSci programme.

This programme includes a full year placement abroad in year 4 of the course. Students for whom no suitable placement is available will transfer to MSci Chemistry (F103). Students who fail their placement year will be eligible for an appropriate exit award.

Ownership			
Awarding Institution	Imperial College London	Faculty	Faculty of Natural Sciences
Teaching Institution	Imperial College London	Department	Chemistry
Associateship	Royal College of Science	Main Location(s) of Study	South Kensington Campus, White City Campus
External Reference			
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external reference points		Masters Chemistry degree	
FHEQ Level		MSci – Level 7 - Honours	
EHEA Level		2nd Cycle	
External Accreditor(s) (if applicable)			
External Accreditor 1:	Royal Society of Chemistry		

Accreditation received:	2015	Accreditation renewal:	2027
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Collaborative Provision			
Collaborative partner	Collaboration type	Agreement effective date	Agreement expiry date
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Specification Details			
Programme Lead		Prof. Nick Brooks	
Student cohorts covered by specification		2025-26 entry	
Date of introduction of programme		October 19	
Date of programme specification/revision		March 25	

Programme Overview
<p>Studying the MSci Chemistry with Research Abroad programme you will be an active participant engaging with a rigorous modern student-centred curriculum in a dynamic and world-leading chemistry department. The research abroad opportunity in your final year gives you the chance to carry out your final-year research project and optional chemistry modules at one of our partner universities abroad. If you choose to study in Europe, operating in another language, you will also receive support to develop fluency in that language, preparing you for careers overseas. Ultimately you will contribute to chemistry research and to advancing the discipline, and you will graduate confident in your ability to take on any challenge in chemistry and beyond.</p> <p>You will develop a thorough and interconnected understanding of core chemistry through studying fundamental chemistry topics across the sub-disciplines of Inorganic, Organic, Physical, Analytical, Synthetic and Computational chemistry. In years 3 and 4 you will select from a range of chemistry options to follow your own interests in advanced topics and frontiers of the discipline. Through an extensive laboratory programme you will learn to synthesise chemicals and to study chemical systems through experimental measurements and computational models, including building instrumentation and programming. You will design your own experiments, and thereby learn a range of broader research and transferrable skills from finding reliable information, to designing an experimental investigation, and analysing and communicating the results. Your third year will include an introduction to emergent 'industry 4.0' approaches and technologies such as rapid prototyping, biohacking and machine learning, and in your final year you will join an academic research group in one of the department's partner universities to complete an independent research project.</p> <p>Your core chemistry studies will be complemented by language (for final year study operating in another language) in years 1, 2 and 3, or your choice of elective ancillary module in years 1 and 2 and the i-Explore module in year 3, in which you undertake multidisciplinary study e.g. Physics, Philosophy, Language. Extra-curricular opportunities to undertake multidisciplinary include access to the Advanced Hack Space and Invention Rooms at White City, initiatives such as the faculty's Make A Difference competition, and summer research projects through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme.</p> <p>You will learn from a range of teachers: peers, postgraduate students, teaching- and research- focussed academic staff up to professorial level, including world leaders in their fields. You will build collaborative learning relationships with a range of people, and a personal tutor will oversee your personal and intellectual development. Most teaching will be at South Kensington, but travel to the White City campus will be necessary for some activities.</p> <p>An MSci degree covers more in-depth chemistry study than a BSc degree, including more advanced research-led modules, making them more suited to students who are considering a career in research or who may wish to progress to further study such as a PhD. The degree programme is professionally accredited by the Royal Society of Chemistry, meaning your degree will be recognised around the world as high quality, having academic rigour and</p>

meeting the needs of both students and employers. As well as your main Imperial degree, you will also receive the award of the Associateship of the Royal College of Science (ARCS) on completion of this course. Graduates of the chemistry department go on to a range of employments and further study, including PhD study, technical consultancy, research and development, accountancy, marketing, business activities and medical and law-based graduate training.

Learning Outcomes

Chemistry degree programmes have six broad Intended Learning Outcomes. Students will be able to:

1. Apply chemistry knowledge and understanding
2. Use experimentation to find chemical information and create new chemical knowledge and technologies
3. Use reliable sources to find chemical information
4. Analyse and interpret data and solve problems creatively in chemistry and wider contexts
5. Communicate chemistry
6. Demonstrate intellectual and personal development as a university learner and citizen to enable purposeful and responsible engagement with the world and employ the transferrable skills and core competencies expressed in the [Imperial Graduate Attributes](#)

Graduates of the Chemistry with Research Abroad programmes will additionally be able to:

- Adapt to university life and wider culture in a foreign country
- Communicate using scientific and technical terminology in the foreign language (those undertaking final year study operating in another language)

Upon completion of a MSci Chemistry degree you will, in addition to the BSc Chemistry learning outcomes (below), be able to:

- Apply chemistry knowledge and understanding: demonstrate depth of knowledge and comprehensive understanding of their chosen specialism; describe and explain personal opinions on contested issues
- Use experimentation to find chemical information and create new chemical knowledge and technologies: plan and carry out a substantial open-ended research project including strategic optimisation
- Use reliable sources to find chemical information: efficiently find information to explore their own interests; critically analyse journal articles and evaluate their contribution to the literature
- Analyse and interpret data and solve problems creatively in chemistry and wider contexts: define and solve problems in the context of their chosen specialism; identify gaps in current knowledge or data sets and formulate projects to address these
- Communicate chemistry: communicate and defend their research; explain views on directions of future research in the area
- Demonstrate intellectual and personal development as a university learner and citizen to enable purposeful and responsible engagement with the world: employ behaviours of a research-led learner; manage their own learning, time and workload and maintain research group relationships over a substantial project; instigate professional relationships; exercise substantial initiative, perseverance and academic accountability; operate in a professional chemistry environment

Upon completion of a BSc Chemistry degree you will, in addition to the Certificate and Diploma learning outcomes (below), be able to:

- Apply chemistry knowledge and understanding: describe advanced topics and areas of current research; choose appropriate models to provide explanations and predictions within the context of advanced topics or current research applying core chemistry concepts
- Use experimentation to find chemical information and create new chemical knowledge and technologies: plan and carry out investigative work and an open-ended research project, demonstrating an integrated understanding of techniques for synthesis, analysis and/or computational modelling

- Use reliable sources to find chemical information:
efficiently find information to explore a specific field of research; summarise information gathered from a range of literature sources
- Analyse and interpret data and solve problems creatively in chemistry and wider contexts:
define and solve problems in real-world and abstract contexts using incomplete or ambiguous data sets, applying critical analysis
- Communicate chemistry:
communicate their research project context, aims and outcomes; communicate synoptic understanding with and without presentation aids
- Demonstrate intellectual and personal development as a university learner and citizen to enable purposeful and responsible engagement with the world:
employ behaviours of a professional learner; manage their own learning, time and workload and build research group relationships over a project; exercise initiative; operate in a professional environment

Upon completion of a Diploma of Higher Education you will, in addition to the Certificate learning outcomes (below), be able to:

- Apply chemistry knowledge and understanding:
choose appropriate representations to describe familiar and unfamiliar chemical systems and processes; explain concepts and theories and apply synoptic understanding; explain and predict properties, behaviours and trends with an appreciation of the limitations of familiar models and their position in the historical development of the discipline
- Use experimentation to find chemical information and create new chemical knowledge and technologies:
assess risks and hazards of self-determined lab work; use advanced techniques and basic computational modelling; obtain reliable and accurate and precise data
- Use reliable sources to find chemical information:
identify appropriate reliable texts to find information and to extend syllabus learning; extract meaning from journal articles; use reference management software
- Analyse and interpret data and solve problems creatively in chemistry and wider contexts:
use their own synoptic knowledge and understanding of theoretical models and the results of information searches, experimental work and data analyses to solve well-defined problems in real-world contexts
- Communicate chemistry:
in a mode appropriate to the designated audience
- Demonstrate intellectual and personal development as a university learner and citizen to enable purposeful and responsible engagement with the world:
apply techniques of independent learning; contribute to the education of others within communities of learning

Upon completion of a Certificate of Higher Education you will be able to:

- Apply chemistry knowledge and understanding:
use various representations as directed to describe familiar chemical systems and processes; explain concepts; use concepts, theories and models to explain and predict properties, behaviours and trends
- Use experimentation to find chemical information and create new chemical knowledge and technologies:
assess risks and hazards of lab work; apply basic techniques to work safely and purposefully in the lab to obtain meaningful data; carry out basic computational operations
- Use reliable sources to find chemical information:
use recommended texts to find information and to reinforce syllabus learning; extract with guidance appropriate data from journal articles; correctly cite sources of information
- Analyse and interpret data and solve problems creatively in chemistry and wider contexts:
use their own knowledge and understanding of theoretical models, and results of information searches, their own experimental work and data analyses, to solve well-defined problems in familiar contexts
- Communicate chemistry:
communicate scientific ideas in accurate English clearly through a variety of defined modes using correct terminology and effective presentation of data

- Demonstrate intellectual and personal development as a university learner and citizen to enable purposeful and responsible engagement with the world:
apply techniques of university learning; self-reflect on what has been learned from received teaching; build collaborative learning relationships with peers and tutors and integrate into the university community

The Imperial Graduate Attributes are a set of core competencies which we expect students to achieve through completion of any Imperial degree programme. The Graduate Attributes are available at:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/education/our-graduates/>

Entry Requirements

Academic Requirement	<p>The minimum requirements for entry to this degree programme, and <i>typical offers</i>, are listed below:</p> <p>A-Level: AAA in Chemistry, Mathematics, plus a third subject, preferably Biology, Physics or Economics. <i>Typical offer:</i> A*AA-A*A*A. General Studies and Critical Thinking are not accepted.</p> <p>IB: 38 points overall, with HL6 in Chemistry, HL6 in Mathematics plus HL6 in a third subject as above. <i>Typical offer:</i> 39 points, with 7, 6, 6 at Higher Level.</p> <p>Language proficiency, while welcomed, is not a minimum requirement. Language tuition for students anticipating research at a non-English speaking institution, will be provided by the CLCC (Centre for Languages Culture and Communication) .</p> <p>For further information on entry requirements, please go to www.imperial.ac.uk/study/apply/undergraduate/entry-requirements/</p>
Non-academic Requirements	N/A
English Language Requirement	<p>Higher requirement</p> <p>Please check for other Accepted English Qualifications</p>
Admissions Test/Interview	<p>All applications through UCAS are vetted internally and short-listings are made for interview. There is no discrimination by date of application. Academic interviews are conducted on Microsoft Teams by two experienced academic staff. You will be informed of the interview performance criteria in advance. Detailed written interview feedback and grading from interviewers is used, in conjunction with the application, to make an offer decision. There is no admissions test in use.</p> <p>Please see the following webpage for further information: www.imperial.ac.uk/chemistry/undergraduate/applying/</p>

The programme's competency standards documents can be found at:

www.imperial.ac.uk/chemistry/undergraduate/courses/

Learning & Teaching Approach

Learning and Teaching Delivery Methods

The teaching and learning approach you will experience aims broadly that you gain an integrated understanding of chemistry and are able to apply this to solve real-world problems, and develop into a self-motivated, independent life-long learner. Teaching will include: lectures and other whole-cohort teaching sessions incorporating active learning (opportunities for you to apply your learning); discussions in tutorials in groups of about 8; application and problem-solving in workshops in groups of about 30; laboratory practicals and projects in small groups, pairs or individually. The final year abroad placement will include lectures in the language of the exchange partner and a placement in an academic research group for an independent research project. Throughout the degree you will undertake independent study and you may choose to work individually or with peers.

Overall Workload

Your overall workload consists of face-to-face sessions and independent learning. While your actual contact hours may vary according to the optional modules you choose to study, the following gives an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the programme. At Imperial, each ECTS credit taken equates to an expected total study time of 25 hours. Therefore, the expected total study time is 1500 hours per year.

Typically, in years 1 and 2 you will spend in the order of 15% of your time on classroom teaching (around 230 hours), 15% in the laboratory, and 70% on independent study. Week-to-week your workload will fluctuate within reasonable limits, i.e. you will be more busy in some weeks than others. In later years the proportion of independent study increases to 80% in year 3, and 90% in year 4 (excluding the research project).

Where the year abroad replaces a year at Imperial, the workload will be comparable.

Assessment Strategy

Assessment Methods

Your achievement of the intended learning outcomes of the programme will be supported by formative assessment and measured by a range of summative assessments.

Formative assessment opportunities will include digital resources for self-assessment, discussions in tutorials, in workshops and in the laboratory, formative assignment submissions, and, during your final year project, formative literature / interim reports and discussions with your supervisor. Discussions with your personal tutor will address your intellectual and personal development and engagement.

Open- and closed- book examinations and tests will summatively assess your ability to apply chemistry knowledge and understanding, and to analyse and interpret data and solve problems (ILOs 1 and 4). Your performance in the lab will be an assessment also of your ability to use experimentation (ILOs 1,2,4). Oral exams (known as 'vivas') will additionally assess your ability to communicate chemistry (ILOs 1,4,5), and written reports, poster and oral presentations also your ability to find reliable chemical information (ILOs 1,3,4,5). Formal and informal groupwork, reflection on your learning from labs through the research skills passport, and structured self-reflective statements will assess your intellectual and personal development and engagement with the world (ILO 6).

Assessment mode	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Examination	75%	65%	40%*	25%*
Coursework / Practical	25%	35%	60%*	75%*

* Variable with choice of options

Academic Feedback Policy

You will receive verbal feedback on your understanding and performance through informal discussions with peers, GTAs and staff in labs, workshops and tutorials. You will generally receive immediate verbal feedback on your performance in oral exams and presentations. The department manages submission of written work electronically, and you will receive feedback comments on your work similarly, within 10 working days of submission. Following exams, general feedback on the performance of the cohort is made available, and in early years you will receive individual feedback on your understanding through a scheduled discussion with a tutor, while in later years you can request feedback via your personal tutor.

Imperial Policy on Academic Feedback and guidance on issuing provisional marks to students is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/

[Throughout the year abroad, a student is enrolled at a partner university and is subject to the partner's Policy on Academic Feedback.](#)

Re-sit Policy

Imperial Policy on Re-sits is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/

Mitigating Circumstances Policy

Imperial Policy on Mitigating Circumstances is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/

Additional Programme Costs

This section should outline any additional costs relevant to this programme which are not included in students' tuition fees.

Description	Mandatory/Optional	Approximate cost
Laboratory Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Mandatory	PPE is provided at no cost by the department, and replaced as appropriate

Students will need to consider the costs involved with placements. For students studying or working abroad as part of their programme, costs will vary with destination. Information on the types of costs which may be incurred can be found in the Placements Abroad Handbook which is available at www.imperial.ac.uk/placements/information-for-imperial-college-students/

Important notice: The Programme Specifications are the result of a large curriculum and pedagogy reform implemented by the Department and supported by the Learning and Teaching Strategy of Imperial College London. The modules, structure and assessments presented in this Programme Specification are correct at the time of publication but might change as a result of student and staff feedback and the introduction of new or innovative approaches to teaching and learning. You will be consulted and notified in a timely manner of any changes to this document.

Programme Structure ¹					
Year 1 – FHEQ Level 4 You will study all core modules. You must choose one elective from group A.					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Elective	Group	Term	Credits
CHEM40001	i-Engage	Core		Autumn-Summer	0
CHEM40002	Language of Chemistry	Core		Autumn-Spring	7.5
CHEM40004	Structure and Bonding: Atomic Structure to Molecular Orbitals	Core		Autumn	10
CHEM40003	Introduction to Spectroscopy	Core		Autumn	5
CHEM40006	Reactivity at Carbon Centres	Core		Spring	7.5
CHEM40007	The Reaction Toolkit: Thermodynamics and Kinetics	Core		Spring	5
CHEM40005	Chemistry of the Elements: Hydrogen to Uranium	Core		Spring	5
CHEM40008	Practical Chemistry 1	Core		Autumn-Summer	15
CHEM40010	Mathematics and Physics 1	Elective	A	Autumn-Spring	5
CHEM40009	Medicinal Chemistry 1	Elective	A	Autumn-Spring	5
	Horizons	Elective	A	Autumn-Spring	5
Credit Total					60
Year 2 - FHEQ Level 5 You will study all core modules. You must choose one elective from group A.					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Elective	Group	Term	Credits
CHEM50002	i-Engage 2	Core		Autumn-Summer	0
CHEM50003	Electronic States and Bonding	Core		Autumn	7.5
CHEM50001	Analysis of Molecules, Materials and Mixtures	Core		Autumn-Summer	7.5
CHEM50006	Solids, Liquids and Interfaces	Core		Spring	5

¹ **Core** modules are those which serve a fundamental role within the curriculum, and for which achievement of the credits for that module is essential for the achievement of the target award. Core modules must therefore be taken and passed in order to achieve that named award. **Compulsory** modules are those which are designated as necessary to be taken as part of the programme syllabus. Compulsory modules can be compensated. **Elective** modules are those which are in the same subject area as the field of study and are offered to students in order to offer an element of choice in the curriculum and from which students are able to select. Elective modules can be compensated.

CHEM50005	Chemistry of Molecular Systems	Core		Spring-Summer	5
CHEM50011	Macromolecules and Materials	Core		Spring-Summer	5
CHEM50007	Control and Selectivity in Molecular Synthesis	Core		Autumn	5
CHEM50004	Practical Chemistry 2	Core		Autumn-Summer	20
CHEM50008	Mathematics and Physics 2 ²	Elective	A	Autumn-Spring	5
CHEM50009	Medicinal Chemistry 2 ³	Elective	A	Autumn-Spring	5
	Horizons	Elective	A	Autumn-Spring	5
	BPES	Elective	A	Autumn or Spring	5
Credit Total					60
Year 3 - FHEQ Level 6 You will study all core modules (there is choice within modules). You must choose one elective from group A.					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Elective	Group	Term	Credits
CHEM60001	Advanced Chemistry Topics 1	Core		Autumn	15
CHEM60003	Advanced Chemistry Topics 2	Core		Spring	15
CHEM60009	Practical Chemistry 3 for MSci Chemistry	Core		Autumn-Summer	25
	I-Explore	Elective	A	Autumn-Spring	5
Credit Total					60
Year 4 - FHEQ Level 7 You will study all core modules.					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Elective	Group	Term	Credits
CHEM70003	Advanced Chemistry Study Abroad (15 ECTS) ⁴	Core		Autumn-Summer	15
CHEM70009	Research Project	Core		Autumn-Summer	45

² Maths and Physics 1 is prerequisite for Maths and Physics 2

³ Medicinal Chemistry 1 is prerequisite for Medicinal Chemistry 2

⁴ Marks from the host institution are converted before inclusion in the year total, details are clearly communicated to students in advance of the final year

Credit Total	60
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Progression and Classification

Progression

In order to progress to the next level of study, you must have passed all modules (equivalent to 60 ECTS) in the current level of study at first attempt, at resit or by a compensated pass.

The overall weighted average for each year must be 40.00%, including where a module(s) has been compensated, in order for you to progress to the next year of the programme.

To remain on the Research Abroad programme you must normally achieve a year total in year 2 of at least 65.00%. Other factors also dictate suitability for a research abroad placement, and you may be interviewed at the discretion of the research abroad coordinator in order to confirm suitability for a proposed placement abroad. If you are not recommended for a research abroad placement by the year abroad coordinator you will be transferred to another MSci Chemistry programme.

For final year study operating in another language, students must demonstrate an appropriate language competency either through showing evidence of passing language elective modules to an appropriate level or through verification of competency by individual assessment by our colleagues in the CLCC. The year abroad coordinator will advise the appropriate level required for each individual placement.

The Year Abroad cannot be compensated.

Classification

The marks from modules in each year contribute towards the final degree classification.

In order to be considered for an award, you must have achieved the minimum number of credits at the required levels prescribed for that award and met any programme specific requirements as set out in the Programme Specification.

Your classification will be determined through:

- i) Aggregate Module marks for all modules
- ii) Year Weightings

For this award, Year 1 is weighted at 7.50%, Year 2 at 20.00%, Year 3 at 36.25% and Year 4 at 36.25%.

The university sets the class of undergraduate degree that may be awarded as follows:

- i) First 70.00% or above for the average weighted module results
- ii) Upper Second 60.00% or above for the average weighted module results
- iii) Lower Second 50.00% or above for the average weighted module results
- iv) Third 40.00% or above for the average weighted module results

Please find the full Academic Regulations at www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations/. Please follow the prompts to find the set of regulations relevant to your programme of study.

Programme Specific Regulations

Policies and regulations may vary for students on a year abroad. You are encouraged to familiarise yourself with the relevant policies and regulations which will underpin your studies while abroad before you go. If you have any questions, please talk to your host institution or your home departmental contact.

Supporting Information

The Programme Handbook is available from the department.

The Module Handbook is available from the department.

This programme incorporates a year-long placement abroad and further information is available at:
<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/chemistry/undergraduate/courses/>

Imperial entry requirements for postgraduate programmes can be found at:
www.imperial.ac.uk/study/apply/postgraduate-taught/entry-requirements/

Imperial Quality & Enhancement Framework is available at:
www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance

Imperial Academic and Examination Regulations can be found at:
www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations

Imperial College is an independent corporation whose legal status derives from a Royal Charter granted under Letters Patent in 1907. In 2007 a Supplemental Charter and Statutes was granted by HM Queen Elizabeth II. This Supplemental Charter, which came into force on the date of Imperial Centenary, 8th July 2007, established Imperial as a University with the name and style of "The Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine".
www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/university-governance-structure/charters/

Imperial College London is regulated by the Office for Students (OfS)
www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/

This document provides a definitive record of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that you may reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. This programme specification is primarily intended as a reference point for prospective and current students, academic and support staff involved in delivering the programme and enabling student development and achievement, for its assessment by internal and external examiners, and in subsequent monitoring and review.