Chemistry

Chemistry explores the composition, structure, and transformation of matter. Frequently called the central science, it provides the basis for studies in many other disciplines, ranging from biology to materials science, in addition to being a booming discipline of its own.

**Alumni story**

Not too long ago, Jenny Du was a student at Queen's. Now she's living the California lifestyle at a cool startup. As the Director of Extraction, Jenny works with a team at Apeel Sciences to use natural plant extracts to formulate edible coatings that work to extend the shelf-life of fresh produce.

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**TOP ALUMNI JOBS**

10% of alumni work in GOVERNMENT

11% of alumni work in HEALTH & MEDICINE

14% of alumni work in RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

32% of alumni work in EDUCATION

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**2023-24 Plan Thresholds**

Thresholds are made on a competitive basis and are updated annually. To see the thresholds for all programs as well as the latest information, please visit quartsci.com/planselection.

Interested in finding out how to augment your degree with Experiential Learning? Learn what opportunities and resources are available for you on the Experiential Learning website. You can also reach out to the team directly at asc.el@queensu.ca.

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**Acquire Skills. Gain Experience. Go Global.**

That is a degree from Queen's.

chem.queensu.ca
In first year you will have the chance to explore the foundations of Chemistry in biology, chemistry, geography, and geology along with some electives. Attend Majors Night in the Winter term to learn more about Plan options. Interested in getting a head start in learning and working in a digital world? Take ASCX 150 and develop future-ready skills!

Join clubs on campus such as Let's Talk Science, Women in Science and Engineering or the Undergraduate Science Case Competition. See the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen's Get Involved page for more ideas.

Volunteer on or off-campus with community organizations such as Science Rendezvous. Consider joining an intramural sports or an athletics team. Check out the Athletics and Recreation site.

Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC's Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations. Speak to a QUIC advisor to get involved in their programs, events, and training opportunities.

Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services. Attend departmental information sessions on Plan selection (March).

Start going deeper into the discipline of Chemistry, while considering a minor and/or certificate such as French for Professionals. Learn more about Certificates and Internship options. Want to make sure your academics are where you want them to be? Visit SASS (Student Academic Support Services) and the Writing Centre for some help. Develop your entrepreneurial skills by participating in the Dean's Changemaker Challenge (ASCX 200/300).

Look into summer jobs by talking to the dept. or Career Services about work through SWEP, NSERC-USRA, or Work-Study. Consider entrepreneurial opportunities via programs like the Queen's Innovation Connector Summer Initiative (QICSI).

Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC). Connect with professors at socials or attend speaker events. Start or continue volunteering.

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In fourth year you will have the chance to participate in research-based courses that can lead to Graduate School or to your future career path. Make sure to finish up all your courses for your major and your optional minor and/or certificate(s).

Interested in working on a real-world problem with an actual client? Take ASCX 400 and develop your consulting and project-management skills.

Consider joining associations like the Chemical Institute of Canada or the Association of the Chemical Profession of Ontario.

Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Chemistry.

International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

Consider widening your global skills by applying to the dual MSc Queen’s – Stuttgart degree. Do your research at the University of Stuttgart in Germany.

In 3rd year, consider applying for Accelerated MSc studies in Chemistry at Queen’s to get a head start on graduate studies.

Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, interviews, Grad School applications, or other decisions.

What will I learn?

A degree in Chemistry can equip you with:

- Academic and technical skills to conduct research, understand scientific journal articles, troubleshooting, clearly explain and interpret research data
- Organizational skills to compile, organize and maintain accurate records
- Ability to operate laboratory equipment and to employ appropriate scientific lab techniques
- Proficiency in mathematical and logical analysis
- Sensitivity to the health and safety of others - safe handling, storage and disposal of hazardous chemicals
- Written and oral communication skills to prepare and present reports from research ideas and information using current technology
- Team working in a multidisciplinary context
- Practical and fundamental knowledge of all subdisciplines of chemistry

Where can I go?

A degree in Chemistry can take your career in many directions. Many students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a Master’s. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Environmental research
- Environmental sustainability
- Forensic science
- Materials science
- Patent law
- Pharmaceuticals
- Pharmacy
- Public health
- Quality control
- Sustainability design

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.
Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need

Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen’s, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

Why study in Kingston?

For 175 years, our community has been more than a collection of bright minds – Queen’s has attracted students with an ambitious spirit. Queen’s has the highest retention rates, the highest graduation rates, and one of the highest employment rates among recent graduates. We are a research intensive university focused on the undergraduate experience. The BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world – and it is often awarded the safest city in Canada. It is a university city at the core; just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York. A university with more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and a city with more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America – you will have the experience of a lifetime at Queen’s – and graduate with a degree that is globally recognized among the best.