

A Student's Guide to Careers with A-Level Chemistry (Comprehensive Edition)

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This guide outlines a wide range of potential career paths for students who have studied A-level Chemistry. The tables are organised by how critical the subject is for entry into that profession.

Table 1: Careers Where A-Level Chemistry is ESSENTIAL

For these degree courses and career paths, A-level Chemistry is a **non-negotiable prerequisite**. You will find it impossible to enter the vast majority of these university courses or professions without it.

Job Title & Description	Typical A-Level & Degree Requirements	Median Wage (UK) & Time to Achieve	Job Availability (UK overall / SE+London)	Relevant Internet Links
Medicine	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A-levels: A*AA-AAA. Chemistry is essential. Biology is also almost always required. Admissions Test: High score in the UCAT or BMAT. Experience: Relevant work experience is crucial. Degree: 5-year MBBS or MBChB. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Foundation Doctor: £32,000+ GP / Specialist: £70,000 - £120,000+ Time: 10-15 years post-qualification 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> UK: Hyper-competitive entry, high post-qualification. SE+Lon: Very High 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> UCAS: Medicine NHS Health Careers
Dentistry	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A-levels: AAA-AAB. Chemistry is essential, usually with Biology. Admissions Test: UCAT often required. Degree: 5-year Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Foundation Dentist: ~£35,000 Experienced (NHS/Private): £60,000 - £110,000+ Time: 8-12 years 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> UK: Hyper-competitive entry, high post-qualification. SE+Lon: Very High 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> UCAS: Dentistry British Dental Association (BDA)

Job Title & Description	Typical A-Level & Degree Requirements	Median Wage (UK) & Time to Achieve	Job Availability (UK overall / SE+London)	Relevant Internet Links
Veterinary Science	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A-levels: A*AA-AAA. Chemistry and Biology are essential. Experience: Extensive and varied work experience with animals is mandatory. Degree: 5-year BVSc or similar. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Newly Qualified Vet: £30,000 - £35,000 Experienced Partner: £50,000 - £70,000+ Time: 8-10 years 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> UK: Hyper-competitive entry. SE+Lon: High 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> UCAS: Veterinary Medicine RCVS: I want to be a Vet
Chemical Engineering	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A-levels: AAA-AAB. Chemistry and Maths are non-negotiable. Third Subject: Physics is strongly preferred. Degree: 3/4-year BEng or MEng. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Salary: £30,000 - £38,000 Chartered Engineer: £50,000 - £75,000+ Time: 6-8 years 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> UK: High SE+Lon: Moderate 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Prospects: Chemical Engineer IChemE: Careers
Pharmacy (MPharm)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A-levels: AAB-ABB. Chemistry is essential, often with Biology or Maths. Degree: 4-year integrated Master of Pharmacy (MPharm). Training: Followed by a 1-year pre-registration period. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Newly Qualified: ~£35,000 - £45,000 Senior/Specialist: £50,000 - £60,000+ Time: 5-8 years 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> UK: High SE+Lon: High 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Prospects: Pharmacist General Pharmaceutical Council

Job Title & Description	Typical A-Level & Degree Requirements	Median Wage (UK) & Time to Achieve	Job Availability (UK overall / SE+London)	Relevant Internet Links
Medicinal/ Research Chemist	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A-levels: A*AA-AAB in Chemistry, Maths and/or Biology. Degree: First-class or 2:1 honours degree in Chemistry. Postgraduate: A PhD in a relevant field is the standard entry route. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Post-PhD Start: £35,000 - £45,000 Senior Research Leader: £70,000 - £90,000+ Time: 10-15 years post-PhD 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> UK: Moderate SE+Lon: Very High 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> RSC: Drug Discovery ABPI Careers
Biochemistry	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A-levels: AAB-ABB. Chemistry and usually Biology are essential. Degree: BSc or MBiochem in Biochemistry. Postgraduate: A PhD is often required for research careers. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Start: £22,000 - £28,000 Experienced (Post-PhD): £40,000 - £60,000 Time: 8-12 years (for research) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> UK: Moderate SE+Lon: Very High 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Biochemical Society: Careers Prospects: Biochemist
Clinical Scientist (Biochemistry)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A-levels: AAB-ABB in Chemistry and Biology. Degree: A 2:1 or First in a relevant subject (e.g., Chemistry, Biochemistry). Training: NHS Scientist Training Programme (STP). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> STP Trainee: ~£35,000 Qualified NHS Scientist: £45,000 - £60,000+ Time: 8-10 years 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> UK: Low (Competitive Entry) SE+Lon: Moderate 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Prospects: Clinical Scientist NHS Scientist Training Programme

Table 2: Careers Where A-Level Chemistry is USEFUL or ADVANTAGEOUS

For these fields, A-level Chemistry is not always mandatory but provides a significant advantage, making you a stronger applicant and equipping you with a deeper understanding of the subject.

Job Title & Description	Typical A-Level & Degree Requirements	Median Wage (UK) & Time to Achieve	Job Availability (UK overall / SE+Lon)	Relevant Internet Links
Biological Sciences	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A-levels: ABB-AAB. Biology is essential, with Chemistry being the most common and useful second science subject. Degree: BSc in Biological Sciences or a specialism (e.g., Genetics, Zoology). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Start: £22,000 - £26,000 Experienced (Post-PhD): £40,000 - £55,000 Time: Varies hugely by specialism 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> UK: Moderate SE+Lon: High 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Royal Society of Biology: Careers Prospects: Biologist
Environmental Science	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A-levels: ABB-BBB. Requires two sciences; Chemistry with Geography or Biology is a very strong combination. Degree: BSc Environmental Science or similar. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Consultant: £24,000 - £28,000 Senior/Chartered: £40,000 - £60,000+ Time: 7-10 years 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> UK: High SE+Lon: High 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> IES: Careers in Env Science Prospects: Environmental Consultant
Physiotherapy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A-levels: AAB-ABB. Biology/PE is essential. Chemistry is a highly regarded second science. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Newly Qualified (NHS): ~£28,000 Advanced/Clinic Lead: £45,000 - £55,000+ 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> UK: High SE+Lon: High 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy

Job Title & Description	Typical A-Level & Degree Requirements	Median Wage (UK) & Time to Achieve	Job Availability (UK overall / SE+Lon)	Relevant Internet Links
	2. Degree: BSc in Physiotherapy.	3. Time: 8-10 years		
Psychology (BSc)	1. A-levels: AAB-ABB. One science is often required for BSc routes; Chemistry is a respected choice. 2. Degree: A BPS-accredited BSc in Psychology.	1. <i>N.B: Further study is needed for professional roles (e.g., Clinical Psychology Doctorate)</i> 2. Asst Psychologist: £22k-£26k	1. UK: Very High (for degree); Very Competitive (for professional roles) 2. SE+Lon: Very High	1. British Psychological Society (BPS)

Table 3: Careers Where A-Level Chemistry is ACCEPTED & VALUED

For these prestigious careers, specific chemical knowledge is not required. However, A-level Chemistry is highly respected as a rigorous academic subject that demonstrates advanced analytical, logical, and quantitative skills, making you a very strong candidate.

Job Title & Description	Typical A-Level & Degree Requirements	Median Wage (UK) & Time to Achieve	Job Availability (UK overall / SE+Lon)	Relevant Internet Links
Law (Solicitor / Barrister)	1. A-levels: A*AA-AAB. No specific subjects required, but facilitating subjects like Chemistry are highly valued.	1. Trainee/Pupil: £25,000 - £50,000+ 2. Qualified (City Firm): £70,000 - £120,000+	1. UK: Highly Competitive 2. SE+Lon: Extremely High	1. The Law Society: Becoming a solicitor

Job Title & Description	Typical A-Level & Degree Requirements	Median Wage (UK) & Time to Achieve	Job Availability (UK overall / SE+Lon)	Relevant Internet Links
	<p>2. Degree: A 2:1 or First in any discipline (e.g. Chemistry or Law). Followed by professional exams (SQE for solicitors).</p>	<p>3. Partner/KC: £150,000++ 4. Time: 8-12 years to senior levels</p>		<p>2. Prospects: Solicitor</p>
<p>Finance & Accountancy</p>	<p>1. A-levels: AAB or higher. No specific subjects, but Chemistry demonstrates strong analytical and quantitative ability. Maths is useful. 2. Degree: A 2:1 or First in any numerate discipline. Entry via competitive graduate schemes.</p>	<p>1. Graduate Scheme: £30,000 - £45,000 2. Qualified (ACA/CFA): £50,000 - £75,000 3. Director/VP: £100,000+ 4. Time: 6-10 years</p>	<p>1. UK: High but Competitive 2. SE+Lon: Extremely High</p>	<p>1. ICAEW: How to become a chartered accountant 2. CFA Institute</p>
<p>Management Consulting</p>	<p>1. A-levels: A*AA-AAA. Top grades in facilitating subjects are key. STEM backgrounds are actively recruited. 2. Degree: A 2:1 or First from a top university in any discipline. Entry is via case-study interviews and</p>	<p>1. Graduate Analyst: £45,000 - £55,000 2. Experienced Consultant: £70,000 - £90,000 3. Partner: £200,000++ 4. Time: 8-12 years</p>	<p>1. UK: Extremely Competitive 2. SE+Lon: Extremely High</p>	<p>1. Prospects: Management Consultant 2. The Management Consultancies Association</p>

Job Title & Description	Typical A-Level & Degree Requirements	Median Wage (UK) & Time to Achieve	Job Availability (UK overall / SE+Lon)	Relevant Internet Links
	gruelling selection processes.			

Disclaimer: Wage and job availability data are estimates based on publicly available information and can fluctuate based on economic conditions and location. "Time to Achieve" indicates the approximate time taken from starting a career path to reaching an experienced or senior-level salary, and often includes further study or professional exams.