**Job title: Chemist**

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| **Job title: Zookeeper** | Chemists study chemicals and materials and how they behave under different conditions. |
| **Entry requirements:** | You'll usually need a **degree qualification** to become a chemist. Subjects include:   * chemistry * applied or analytical chemistry * biochemistry   As well as a degree, many employers will also want you to have a relevant postgraduate qualification.  Some universities offer an extended degree which leads directly to a postgraduate qualification like an MChem or MSci. These courses have more independent research and can lead directly into professional practice or further postgraduate study.  **Entry requirements**  You'll usually need:   * 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), including maths and a science * at least 2 or 3 A levels, including chemistry * a degree in a relevant subject for postgraduate study   You may be able to get into this career through a laboratory scientist **higher apprenticeship**.  **Entry requirements**  You'll usually need:   * 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C) and college qualifications like A levels for a higher or a degree apprenticeship |
| **Skills required:** | You'll need:   * knowledge of chemistry including the safe use and disposal of chemicals * maths knowledge * science skills * excellent verbal communication skills * complex problem-solving skills * to be thorough and pay attention to detail * analytical thinking skills * the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure * to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently |
| **What you'll do:** | Depending on your role, you could be:   * inventing and developing new medicines and products * investigating environmental issues * diagnosing and treating illness and disease * analysing forensic evidence * teaching, lecturing and carrying out academic research   Your day-to-day tasks may include:   * designing and conducting laboratory experiments * making observations and noting results * writing reports and presenting your findings * supervising the work of support staff such as laboratory technicians * carrying out other administrative work |
| **What you’ll earn:** | * Starter: £18, 000 * Experienced: £50, 000   *These figures are a guide.* |
| **Working hours, patterns and environment:** | * You could work at a research facility or in a laboratory. * You may need to wear protective clothing. * 39 to 41 hours occasionally working weekends |
| **Career path and progression:** | * You'll usually be able to find work with a wide range of employers including the NHS, public health laboratories, research institutes and government agencies. * As a chemist working in industry, you could be involved in research and development, patent work, health and safety or forensic science. * You could also move into teaching or a career in the media. * As an experienced chemist you could work towards[chartered status](http://www.rsc.org/careers/cpd/practising-scientists/chartered-status/) like Chartered Chemist (CChem) and Chartered Scientist (CSci). |