**Job title: Chemist**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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).
 |