



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH

# Studying a PhD or MScR in Chemistry at The University of Edinburgh

Prof Euan Brechin, Director of the Graduate School

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# The City of Edinburgh

Population around 500,000 – students make up over one tenth

Historic, cosmopolitan, safe, cultured city

Favourite UK city Guardian Travel Awards for 15 consecutive years

One of the most vibrant cities in Europe and most desirable places to live

TimeOut ranked Edinburgh #1 Best Cities in the World (2022)

World's first UNESCO City of Literature

UNESCO World Heritage Site

12 annual festivals, including the world's largest arts festival

Financial centre

Excellent transport networks



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# The University – Historic & Prestigious

- Founded in 1583
- Ranked 22nd by QS World University Rankings 2024
- Ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in UK and 4<sup>th</sup> in the World for sustainability (QS) 2023
- Ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the UK Research Excellence Framework 2021 by power ranking
- Associated with 18 Nobel Prize winners - in areas such as Chemistry, Physics, Medicine, Economics
- Peter Higgs, Nobel laureate in Physics (2013)
- Sir Fraser Stoddart, joint winner of Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2016 for the design and synthesis of molecular machines (BSc & PhD from School of Chemistry)
- 41% of students from outside the UK
- The University of Edinburgh rated as the best place to be in the UK by international students



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# Distinguished Alumni

**Charles Darwin**, Naturalist

**David Hume**, Philosopher

**Joseph Lister**, Surgeon

**Piers Sellers**, NASA Astronaut

**Gordon Brown**, UK Prime Minister

**Adam Smith**, Economist

**James Clerk Maxwell**, Physicist

**Sir Walter Scott**, Writer

**Robert Louis Stevenson**, Writer

**JK Rowling**, Writer

**John Witherspoon**, signatory of *US Declaration of Independence*

**Sir Christopher Hoy**, three gold medals at Beijing Olympics

**Peter Higgs**, 2013 Nobel laureate in Physics

**Sir Fraser Stoddart**, 2016 Nobel laureate in Chemistry



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# College of Science & Engineering

## Schools:

Biological Sciences

**Chemistry**

Engineering

Geosciences

Informatics

Mathematics

Physics & Astronomy



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# The School of Chemistry



- Founded in 1713
- Oldest Chemical Society in the World - 1785
- Joseph Black (1755) – discovered  $\text{CO}_2$
- Alexander Crum Brown (1869) – pioneer of molecular models

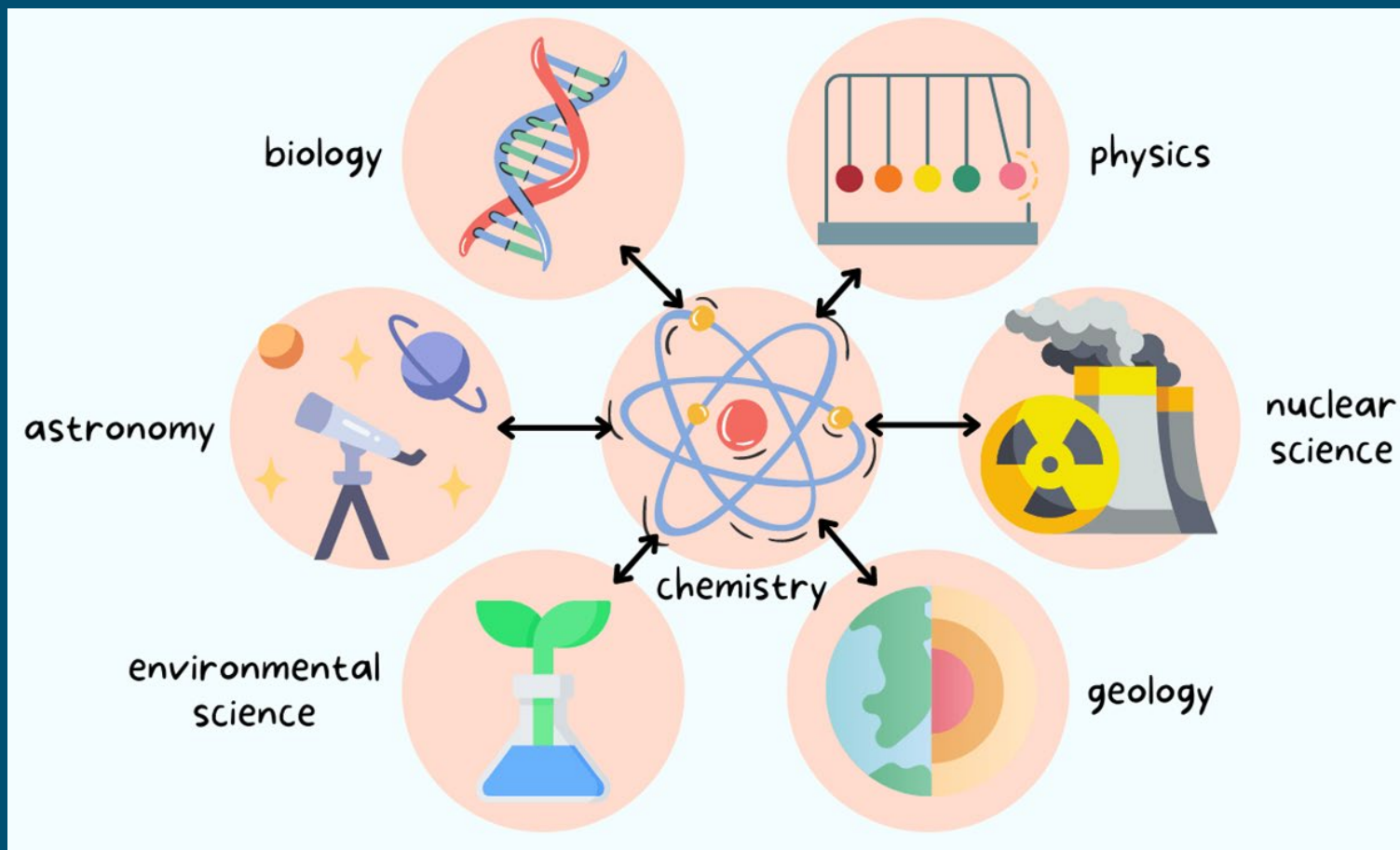


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# Why study Chemistry?

Chemistry is the key enabling science; the “central” science



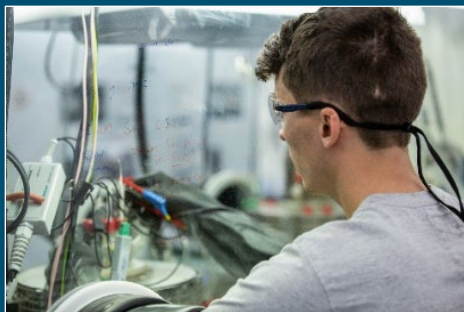
**Chemistry staff collaborate widely, with colleagues in all six other schools in the CSE**



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# Postgraduate Research Programmes in the School of Chemistry



## MScR in Chemistry

*The MSc by Research is a 12-month program in which the student joins one of the groups at the School of Chemistry to conduct original research on a particular topic.*



## PhD in Chemistry

*The PhD is a research programme in which the student conducts an original research project over the course of 3.5 years in one of the groups at the School of Chemistry.*

**A supervisor is required for both programs**



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# Research Areas in the School of Chemistry

- Synthesis and Catalysis: *Simple, effective, and clean routes to preparing molecules and materials;*
- Structural Chemistry and Chemical Dynamics: *Developing techniques to solve structural chemistry problems and understanding how atoms and molecules interact;*
- Energy, Environmental and Sustainable Chemistry: *Tackling the need for secure energy supplies and limiting society's reliance on non-sustainable feedstocks;*
- Functional Materials: *Research that designs and characterises functional solids for applications ranging from energy solutions to industrial catalysis;*
- Chemistry-Biology Interface: *Using chemical techniques that are applied to study biological systems.*

More information about the research areas and the groups working in each can be found here:  
<http://www.chem.ed.ac.uk/research/research-themes>



# International Culture – social events, English language support, buddy system, ChemSoc

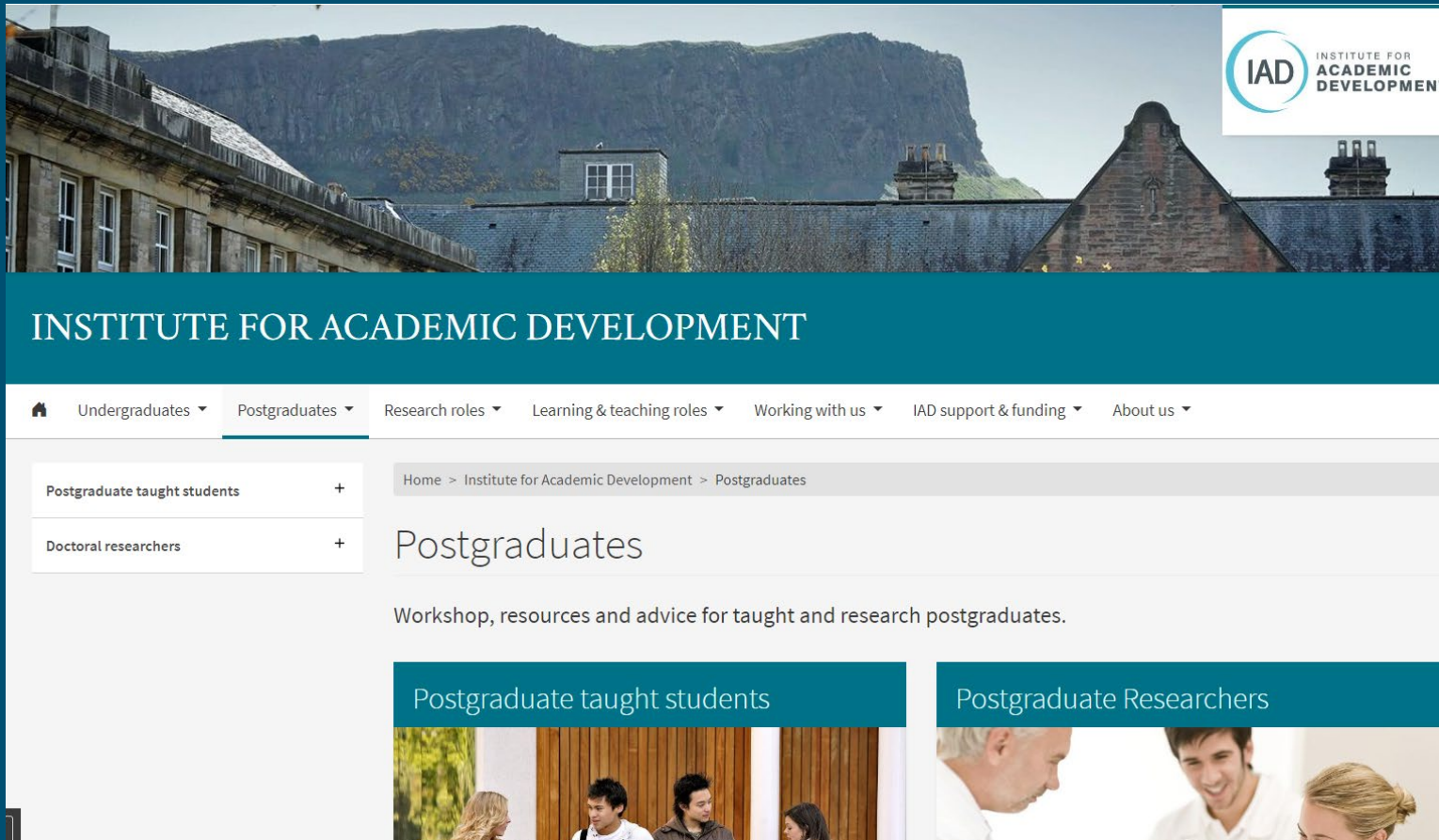


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# Non-scientific training – Institute for Academic Development (IAD)



Courses and Events

Workshops

Advice and support

Career management

Networks and forums

Funding and resources

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/institute-academic-development/postgraduate>

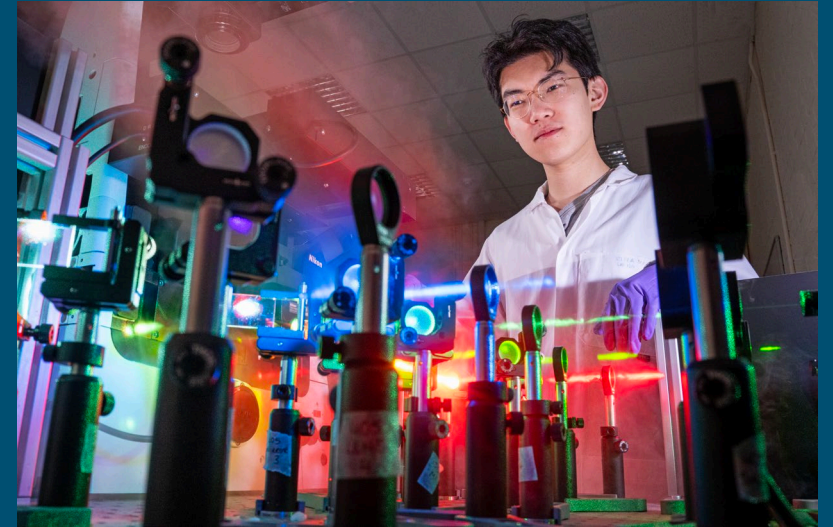


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# Funding for MScR and PhD

- The MScR programme incurs a tuition fee. <https://www.ed.ac.uk/tuition-fees>
- Funding for the PhD program covering both the tuition fees and stipends are available either in the form of fully funded studentships or as part of training programmes.





# How to find a PhD studentship?

- Fully funded PhD studentships are advertised in the School website:

<http://www.chem.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate-research/studentships/fully-funded-studentships>

And also on [www.findaphd.com](http://www.findaphd.com)

- Prize scholarships (deadlines for application usually around January):
  - Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship
  - China Scholarship Council
  - Brian Phillips Scholarship

The full list with further information can be found here:

<http://www.chem.ed.ac.uk/studying/phd/studentships/prize-phd-scholarships>

- Doctoral Training Programs (DTPs) and Centres for Doctoral Training (CDT)
- Government scholarships (specific to each country);
- We also accept self-funded students who cover their tuition fees and living expenses

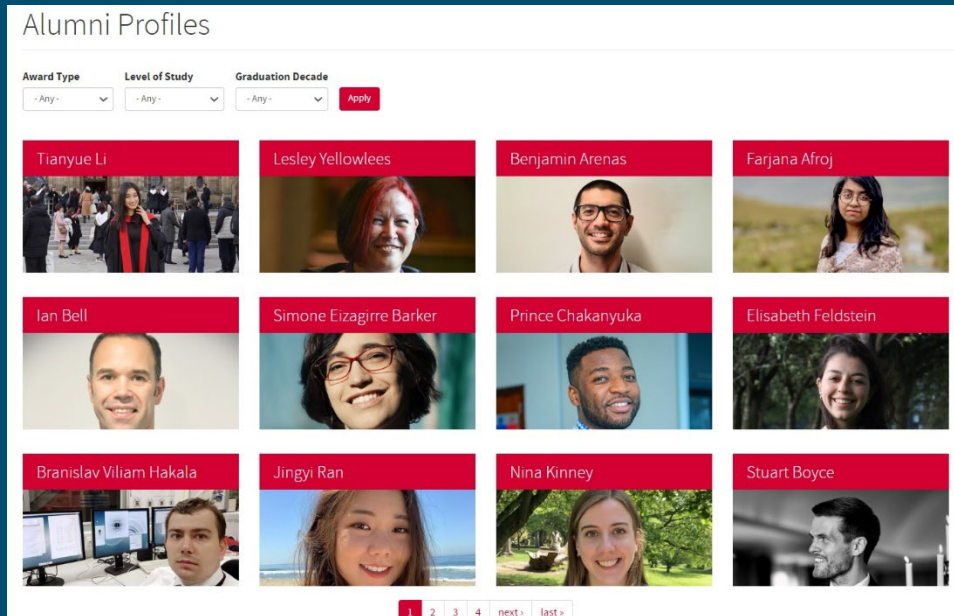


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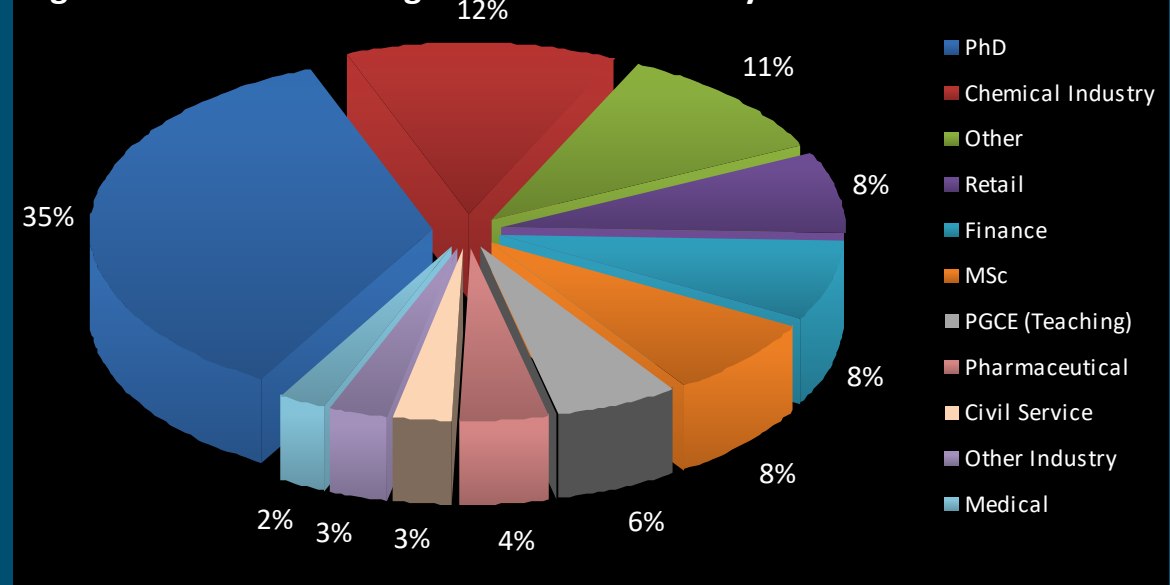
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# After Graduation

We're ranked in the UK's top 10 for the employability of our graduates.



Figures from recent UoE graduates in Chemistry



<http://www.chem.ed.ac.uk/community/alumni/profiles>

**Sara Schmidt**  
Future Leaders Programme  
at GSK.



**Prince Chakanyuka**  
Homecare Business  
Planner  
Procter & Gamble



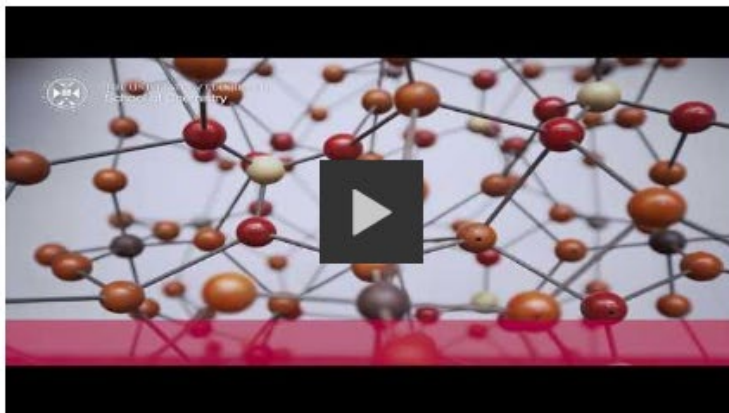
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# Lots of information on our web pages

## The School in 60 Seconds



## Student Experience



Hear what our students think about what it's like studying Chemistry at Edinburgh University.

## Undergraduate



- Undergraduate Degrees
- Applying

## PhD



The School provides a broad range of Research degrees.

## Masters



One year courses teaching advanced chemistry.

[www.chem.ed.ac.uk/studying](http://www.chem.ed.ac.uk/studying)



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# Any questions?

Please email me if you would like any help or advice about studying chemistry at Edinburgh

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[ebrechin@ed.ac.uk](mailto:ebrechin@ed.ac.uk)

School of Chemistry website  
<http://www.chem.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate-research>

UoE Prospective Students website  
<https://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate>



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