



Current student testimonials 2022

Samuel Thamm, 3rd year BSc Chemistry

Why did you choose this degree programme at the University of Aberdeen?

I chose Aberdeen due to the great chemistry facilities that the university has. The staff were all very welcoming and made me feel like I was part of the university even before I had gone when I met them at the offer holders day.

Orlagh Fraser, 3rd year MChem

What skills, knowledge or experience have you gained or developed on this degree programme?

I have gained lots of knowledge about many branches of chemistry, some of which I wasn't aware of until I started my studies here. The staff are very knowledgeable and provide guidance and support throughout. Lab work is an important part of all of the chemistry courses which is an excellent way to build and improve professional skills from day 1.



Peter Grant, 1st year MChem

What part of the degree programme have you enjoyed the most or found most interesting?

The brief stint where we learned about chemical history really fascinated me. I'd always been interested in learning the ideas behind alchemy and old chemistry practices and theories. But in general the lab work was really good fun as due to the longer sessions it meant you could take time to go through things methodically and not have to worry about a class starting in the next hour. Therefore, I think this experience made me a much better chemist, overall, and it harnessed and developed all of the skills, knowledge and experiences I have gained from the degree.



Daniel Thompson, 5th year MChem Chemistry

Why did you choose this degree programme at the University of Aberdeen?

No one in my family studied a science and so I never really thought of it as a career path for myself. I am also the very first person in my family to go to university. I also never actually studied any science in school, it was mostly maths, social sciences and languages. My original plan was to go to university and study History, but then this changed when I was in my 5th year at school. I broke my leg and had a lot of time off, and during this time I was helping my friend study for his higher chemistry exams. I guess I really enjoyed learning about it and was

surprised that I could understand the material really quickly even though it wasn't a subject I had studied before. I was also not really enjoying any of the subjects I was taking and was that excited about studying history- I picked it solely because it was my best performing exams. That's when I decided I would like to study chemistry during my final year in secondary school. However, in order to make any changes you first have to get the approval from your guidance teacher, which I didn't have, and was actually told that I would fail. This didn't stop me and actually motivated me to find an alternative. I enrolled in night classes at North East Scotland College and studied chemistry, biology and physics. I self studied these new science courses in addition to my subjects at school and convinced the school to let me take the exams so that it could go on to my record. After a year of really hard work I passed all my exams which allowed me to enrol at North East Scotland College for the HND. Here I studied a range of chemistry, biology and physics subjects and learnt analytical and spectroscopic techniques. My favourite subjects and labs were always the chemistry ones, and so after completing my HND I enrolled on the Bachelors Chemistry programme and went straight into 2nd year. I then changed my course to the Masters programme a year later. The reason I chose chemistry was because it interested me the most and I really enjoyed learning all areas of chemistry.

Peter Grant, 1st year MChem

What advice would you give another student who is considering applying to this programme?

I would say to another student, be prepared to take any current knowledge of chemistry you may have. And be ready to expand upon it and learn a deeper background as to why it is the way it is. But also to remember that you will likely be familiar with a lot of the chemistry covered, and if you aren't, be willing to put in time and effort to succeed.

Is there anything else about your time at the University of Aberdeen that you would like to share, that was not covered in the above questions?

The general timetable for university is much more laid back than secondary school. Yes you are expected to study at home and there are elective classes for the first year but the amount of downtime is very freeing. There are many different societies, offering a huge array of classes and activities and they're a great way to fill that downtime.

