

Medicinal Chemistry

Heriot-Watt University

Venues

Edinburgh Campus

Content

This career-focused MChem Medicinal Chemistry degree has been developed to equip students with the necessary expertise to excel in pharmaceutical and drug development settings. The programme at Heriot-Watt University offers a rigorous and modern education tailored to those passionate about the science behind medicines and the fight against disease.

Over five years, you will build a strong foundation in core chemistry disciplines — including chemical reactivity, molecular structure and bonding, spectroscopy, and organic synthesis. As you progress, your studies will increasingly focus on medicinal chemistry topics such as pharmacology, enzyme kinetics, drug design, molecular modelling, and pharmaceutical analysis, as well as the use of AI and machine learning in drug development.

Hands-on laboratory work is embedded throughout the course, developing your technical skills and reinforcing theoretical knowledge. You'll gain confidence in experimental design, data interpretation, and scientific communication — essential skills for careers in the pharmaceutical and biotech industries.

The MChem degree provides a clear and structured pathway into roles such as drug discovery scientist, pharmaceutical analyst, and toxicologist. Graduates are well-equipped for employment or for pursuing further study, including PhD programmes. This programme responds to growing demand for expertise in medicinal and pharmaceutical chemistry, combining scientific depth with practical training to prepare you for a rewarding future in healthcare and life sciences.

Start Date

September

Qualification

Degree

Study Method

Full time

Award Title

MChem

UCAS Code

F1M2

Course Length

5 years

Faculty

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

Department

Chemistry

Entry Requirements

2027 entry requirements:

4 Highers at AAAB (Standard entry) or BBBC (Widening access entry) including Chemistry and one from Maths, Engineering Science or Physics plus English and Maths or Applications of Maths at National 5.

For entry to year 2 you would require Advanced Higher Maths and Chemistry at AB or BA plus above.

SCQF Level

11

Progression Routes

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Combination Courses

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Address

Edinburgh
EH14 4AS

Website

www.hw.ac.uk