

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION



1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	MChem
4	Programme Title	Chemistry
5	UCAS/Programme Code	F103
6	Programme Accreditation	Royal Society of Chemistry
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	Chemistry
8	FHEQ Level	Level 7
9	Date written/revised	June 2010

10	Programme Aims
1	to enthuse students to chemistry by educating them with a thorough understanding of organic, inorganic and physical chemistry, including importance and sustainability of the chemical sciences in an industrial academic, economic environmental and social context
2	to demonstrate how chemical principles can be applied to processes and systems.
3	to equip students with the skills to do independent research at both experimental and theoretical levels through extended comprehension of key chemical concepts and in depth understanding of specialised areas
4	to provide training in problem solving, communication skills, numeracy and information technology; to apply methodology to the solution of unfamiliar problems
5	to equip students with skills that enable them to pursue careers in chemistry, chemistry-related disciplines or other professions, including critical awareness of recent advances in the chemical sciences.
6	to develop students' practical skills including assessing risks so they can work in the laboratory safely.

11	Learning Outcomes
The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes have references to the benchmark statements for chemistry.	
Knowledge and Understanding	
On completing the programme students should have a knowledge and understanding of	
A1	The three main branches of chemistry (inorganic, physical and organic)
A2	Practical laboratory chemistry
A3	Data analysis and numeracy
A4	Spectroscopy and chemical characterisation
A5	Specialist aspects of chemistry
A6	Research methods
A7	Developed an awareness of issues in chemistry related to other disciplines.
Teaching and Learning Methods	
Students acquire understanding and knowledge (the complexity of which increases as the course progresses) through lectures, tutorials and workshops (A1, A5). At Stage 1, students learn basic, and at Stage 2 more sophisticated, technical procedures by performing carefully designed and tested experiments. In the laboratory classes they also consolidate the learning started in lectures (A1, A2, A4) and improve on skill A3 . At Stage 3 the students learn advanced practical methods and specialist theoretical material (A1- A4). They learn A5 in Stage 4 lecture modules which describe sophisticated contemporary problems in Chemistry	

and A6 through the training sessions as part of the Research Project. Throughout the period of the degree the student is expected to read around the taught material to supplement and strengthen the taught/learnt work. Reading lists are provided to facilitate this. They develop A7 in modules throughout this programme, particularly related to biology, medicine and materials. Specialist aspects are covered at Stages 3 and 4.
Assessment Strategy
Knowledge and understanding is assessed through unseen written examinations (including open-book exams) and in-course assessments (A1 , A3 – A5 , A7), answers to questions in practical reports (A2), and oral examinations eg in the Stage 4 project (A2 , A6 , A7).
Intellectual Skills
On completing the programme students should be able to:
B1 Critically evaluate data, including using computer software and models. B2 Apply learnt knowledge to unseen problems B3 Analyse and interpret data objectively in terms of current underlying theory B4 Independently plan and undertake a practical and research project including accessing relevant literature and awareness of recent technical and theoretical advances which could be applied.
Teaching and Learning Methods
Intellectual skills are developed by means of the teaching and learning programme outlined above. Students apply the concepts learnt in lectures to problems in laboratory work, seminars and tutorials. B2 and B3 are progressively developed and enable the students to solve challenging problems (Stage 1 in Data Handling, Stage 2 in Group Assignment and Stage 3 Problem Solving modules) which cross the boundaries of the chemistry modules studied earlier. Tutorials facilitate individual and group participation in answering problems. Students develop skills B1 and B4 during their Stage 3 Advanced Practical Chemistry sessions and Stage 4 project work, they learn how to work in a team and apply advanced techniques to solving research problems.
Assessment Strategy
Problem solving based examinations and oral responses to either problems or tasks (tutorials) are used to test skills B1 - B3 . Laboratory reports assess B3 . Write up of independent components of Stage 3 Advanced Practical sessions within CHY3108, CHY3206 and CHY3306 and the Stage 4 project allows students to demonstrate, and be assessed in cognitive skills B1 - B4 .
Practical Skills
On completing the programme students should be able to:
C1 Work safely and independently in a chemistry laboratory. C2 Plan and undertake an advanced practical course C3 Plan and undertake a research project evaluate risks in experiments, understand the limits of accuracy of the data and how to improve it
Teaching and Learning Methods
Students receive close supervision from postgraduate demonstrators or members of staff in the laboratory when performing experiments to enable them to develop safe working practices and good techniques. Formative feedback is used to enable progressive development of these skills (C1). At Stages 1 and 2 detailed experimental procedures are presented in laboratory manuals. At Stage 3 the students learn aspects of planning and designing experiments for themselves (C2), they work with a greater level of independence and perform more technically demanding procedures. By Stage 4 they are able to work independently in a research laboratory and demonstrate competence in advanced laboratory techniques (C3).
Assessment Strategy
The skill C1 is assessed by laboratory write-ups. C2 is assessed within the laboratory sessions of the 3 major modules. C3 is assessed in the Stage 4 Research Project module by oral presentation, poster and writing-up report.

Transferable/Key Skills	
On completing the programme students should be able to:	
D1	Communicate and express clearly ideas both orally and in writing
D2	Work in a group environment
D3	Manage time and complete work to deadlines
D4	Assess and form an opinion of other people's work, including numeracy and mathematical skills
D5	Find information from a range of sources
D6	Be self-reliant, exercise initiative and make decisions to solve complex problems
D7	Critically evaluate data to solve chemical problems of an unfamiliar nature.
Teaching and Learning Methods	
The laboratory courses require the students to produce regular written work which is submitted to deadlines (D1 , D3). Marked work is discussed with the students to develop their understanding as well as their powers of expression. A key skills module, 'Group Assignment' specifically addresses learning from, and working as part of, a group (D2). This module also includes information retrieval from a variety of sources and its evaluation, communication and presentation skills, assignments and reports (D1 , D3 , D5). Peer assessment is introduced in a practical course (Stage 2 Organic) and the Group Assignment (D4). Students further develop skills D1 , D3 – D5 and practise skills D6 and D7 during the Stage 3 Advanced Practical laboratory sessions delivered within the 3 major modules and Stage 4 projects. Solving challenging unseen problems at Stage 3 and the Research Project in Stage 4 develops skill D7 . In Bioactive Natural Products students have to summarize their understanding of aspects of the literature in the form of a poster.	
Assessment Strategy	
Written work and oral examinations are used to assess skill D1 . Many of the skills are assessed in written examinations by both the answers and the approach to question answering. Key skills D1 , D2 , D5 are addressed in the 'Group Assignment' module by peer assessment of individual contributions to the group effort and of a group presentation. The Stage 4 project evaluates skills D1 - D7 . In Bioactive Natural Products students have to summarize their understanding of aspects of the literature in the form of a poster.	

12	Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features
Basic structure of the programme	
The degree programme is offered full-time (4 years). Students have to take 120 credits at each stage for a total of 480 credits. All students take the compulsory modules outlined in each year. A number of option modules are available in Stages 1 and 4 in consultation with their personal tutor.	
Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)	
The large number of option modules at Stage 1 allows students to take subjects that they have not studied before or further study subjects of interest. Selection of certain modules would also allow a student to transfer to, for example, the Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry programme at the end of Stage 1. Students may transfer into the BSc with Industrial Training degree at the start of Stage 2. A special feature of this course is that students undertake research training and a research project in an area of chemistry of their choosing at Stage 4.	
Programme regulations (link to on-line version)	
http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/programme/2010	

13	Criteria for admission
<i>Entry qualifications</i>	
The standard offer for this programme is ABB including Chemistry and preferably Mathematics or another science subject at A Level. GCSE Mathematics grade B required if not offered at a higher level.	

AABBB at Higher Grade including Chemistry at grade A and preferably Mathematics or another science subject is asked for from applicants with Scottish qualifications. Mathematics required at grade 2 standard grade (or Intermediate 2 equivalent) if not offered at a higher level. Combinations of Highers and Advanced Highers accepted.

Applicants taking the International Baccalaureate are usually asked for 34 points with Higher Level Chemistry at grade 6 or above. Mathematics or Mathematical Studies at standard level grade 5 if not offered at Higher Level.

Admissions policy/selection tools

Upon receipt of a UCAS application form offers of places are made to suitably qualified candidates. UK - based applicants are invited to visit Chemistry on an Open Day. During the day they will have a tour of Chemistry and the City. They also attend an informal interview with a member of academic staff. Applicants not based in the UK are not required to attend for interview.

Non-standard Entry Requirements

Applicants who hold non-standard qualifications will be considered on an individual basis

Additional Requirements

Non applicable

Level of English Language capability

Applicants for whom English is not their first language must provide evidence of a satisfactory command of English by means of an IELTS score of 6.5 or greater.

14 Support for Student Learning

The Student Services portal provides links to key services and other information and is available at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/>

Induction

During the first week of the first semester students attend an induction programme. New students will be given a general introduction to University life and the University's principle support services and general information about the School and their programme, as described in the Degree Programme Handbook. New and continuing students will be given detailed programme information and the timetable of lectures/practicals/labs/ tutorials/etc. The International Office offers an additional induction programme for overseas students.

There is an Induction Week Programme in Chemistry which includes social events as well as informative presentations about the course, facilities and student support. Each student receives a Welcome Pack, including chemistry textbooks, laboratory coat, safety glasses, Periodic Table, Calculator etc. Returning students also have induction week programmes.

Study Skills Support

Students will learn a range of Personal Transferable Skills, including Study Skills, as outlined in the Programme Specification. Some of this material, e.g. time management is covered in the appropriate Induction Programme. Students are explicitly tutored on their approach to both group and individual projects.

Numeracy support is available through Maths Aid and help with academic writing is available from the Writing Centre (further information is available from the Robinson Library).

Academic Support

The initial point of contact for a student is with a lecturer or module leader, or their tutor (see below) for more generic issues. Thereafter the Degree Programme Director or Head of School may be consulted. Issues relating to the programme may be raised at the Staff-Student Committee, and/or at the Board of Studies.

Pastoral Support

All students are assigned a personal tutor whose responsibility is to monitor the academic performance and overall well-being of their tutees. In addition the University offers a range of support services, including one-to-one counselling and guidance or group sessions / workshops on a range of topics, such as emotional issues e.g. Stress and anxiety, student finance and budgeting, disability matters etc. There is specialist support available for students with dyslexia and mental health issues. Furthermore, the Union Society operates a Student Advice Centre, which can provide advocacy and support to students on a range of topics including housing, debt, legal issues etc.

Support for Students with Disabilities

The University's Disability Support Service provides help and advice for disabled students at the University - and those thinking of coming to Newcastle. It provides individuals with: advice about the University's facilities, services and the accessibility of campus; details about the technical support available; guidance in study skills and advice on financial support arrangements; a resources room with equipment and software to assist students in their studies.

Learning Resources

The University's main learning resources are provided by the Robinson and Walton Libraries (for books, journals, online resources), and Information Systems and Services, which supports campus-wide computing facilities.

All new students whose first language is not English are required to take an English Language Proficiency Test. This is administered by INTO Newcastle University Centre on behalf of Newcastle University. Where appropriate, in-session language training can be provided. The INTO Newcastle University Centre houses a range of resources which may be particularly appropriate for those interested in an Erasmus exchange.

15 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Module Reviews

All modules are subject to review by questionnaires which are considered by the Board of Studies. Changes to, or the introduction of new, modules are considered at the Board of Studies and/or the School Teaching and Learning Committee. Student opinion is sought at the Staff-Student Committee and/or the Board of Studies. New modules and major changes to existing modules are subject to approval by the Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

Programme Reviews

The Board of Studies conducts an Annual Monitoring and Review of the degree programme and reports to Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee. The FTLC takes an overview of all programmes within the Faculty and reports any Faculty or institutional issues to the University Teaching and Learning Committee.

External Examiner Reports

External Examiner reports are considered by the Board of Studies. The Board responds to these reports through Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee. External Examiner reports are shared with institutional student representatives, through the Staff-Student Committee.

Student Evaluations

All modules, and the degree programme, are subject to review by the Student Response Systems. Informal student evaluation is also obtained at the Staff-Student Committee, and the Board of Studies. The National Student Survey is sent out every year to final-year undergraduate students, and consists of a set of questions seeking students' views on the quality of the learning and teaching. The results from student surveys are considered as part of the Annual Monitoring and Review of the programme and any arising actions are captured at programme and School / institutional level and reported to the appropriate body.

Mechanisms for Gaining Student Feedback

Feedback is channelled via the Staff-Student Committee and the Board of Studies.

Faculty and University Review Mechanisms

The programme is subject to the University's Internal Subject Review process. Every five years degree programmes in each subject area are subject to periodic review. This involves both the detailed consideration of a range of documentation, and a two-day review visit by a review team which includes an external subject specialist in addition to University and Faculty representatives. Following the review a report is produced, which forms the basis for a decision by University Teaching and Learning Committee on whether the programmes reviewed should be re-approved for a further five year period.

Internal Review Reports

This programme was covered by the Internal Subject Review of Chemistry held on February 2010 and was subsequently approved by Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee and University Teaching and Learning Committee. The team was impressed by the very positive relationships between staff and students – it was abundantly clear that the subject group are very student-focused and this was to their significant credit.

Previous QAA Reports

This programme received a QAA Developmental Engagement in April 2004. The Team reported that: "The DE team has confidence in the academic standards set and achieved for all programmes in the developmental engagement in chemistry at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne"; and "The DE team has confidence in the quality of learning opportunities that support students in achieving the academic standards of the awards for all programmes in the developmental engagement in chemistry at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Accreditation Reports

N/A

Additional Mechanisms

N/A

16 Regulation of Assessment

Pass Mark

The pass mark is 40 on Honours modules and 50 on Masters modules (Undergraduate programmes)

Course Requirements

Progression is subject to the University's Undergraduate Progress Regulations and Undergraduate Examination Conventions. In summary, students must pass, or be deemed to have passed, 120 credits at each Stage. Limited compensation up to 40 credits and down to a mark of 35% is possible at each Stage and there are re-assessment opportunities, with certain restrictions.

Weighting of Stages

Modules taken at Stages 2 and 3 are Honours modules and at Stage 4 are Masters modules and the three stages contribute to the award of the final degree in the ratio <1:2:2>

Common Marking Scheme

The University employs a common marking scheme, which is specified in the Undergraduate Examination Conventions, namely

	Honours	Non-honours
<40	Fail	Failing
40-49	Third Class	Basic
50-59	Second Class, Second Division	Good
60-69	Second Class, First Division	Very Good
70+	First Class	Excellent

Role of the External Examiner

An External Examiner, a distinguished member of the subject community, is appointed by Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee, following recommendation from the Board of Studies. The External Examiner is expected to:

- i. See and approve assessment papers
- ii. Moderate examination and coursework marking
- iii. Attend the Board of Examiners
- iv. Report to the University on the standards of the programme

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/>

The School Brochure (email: es@ncl.ac.uk)

Degree Programme and University Regulations:

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/programme/>

The Degree Programme Handbook:

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. The accuracy of the information contained is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Mapping of Intended Learning Outcomes onto Curriculum/Modules

Development of specific Intended Learning Outcomes occurs through the following modules (compulsory modules in bold text, optional modules in normal, italic text)

A1.	Inorganic, Organic, Physical Chemistry	CHY1101, CHY1201, CHY1202, CHY1301, CHY1401, CHY2001, CHY2003, CHY2101, CHY2102, CHY2201, CHY2301, CHY2401, CHY3108, CHY3206, CHY3306, CHY3401, CHY3402, CHY8410, CHY8420, CHY8421, CHY8422, CHY8423, CHY8424, CHY8425, CHY8426
A2.	Practical laboratory chemistry	CHY1102, CHY1101, CHY1201, CHY1301, CHY2101, CHY2201, CHY2301, CHY2401, CHY3108, CHY3206, CHY3306
A3.	Data analysis and numeracy	CHY1202, CHY1101, CHY1201, CHY1301, CHY1401, CHY2102, CHY2101, CHY2201, CHY2301, CHY2401, CHY2003, CHY3108, CHY3206, CHY3306, CHY3401, CHY8411, CHY8420, CHY8421, CHY8425, CHY8426
A4.	Spectroscopy and chemical characterisation	CHY1202, CHY1201, CHY1301, CHY2001, CHY2003, CHY2101, CHY2201, CHY2301, CHY2401, CHY3206, CHY3306, CHY3401, CHY3402, CHY8410
A5.	Specialists aspects of chemistry	CHY8410, CHY8420, CHY8421, CHY8422, CHY8424, CHY8425, CHY8426
A6.	Research methods	CHY8410, CHY8411
A7.	Awareness of related disciplines	CHY1101, CHY1102, CHY1201, CHY1301, CHY2003, CHY2101, CHY2102, CHY2201, CHY2301, CHY3108, CHY3206, CHY3306, CHY3401, CHY3402, CHY8421, CHY8424, CHY8425, CHY8426, CHY8430
B1.	Critically evaluate data	CHY3108, CHY3206, CHY3306, CHY8424
B2.	Apply learnt knowledge to unseen problems	CHY1101, CHY1102, CHY1201, CHY1202, CHY1301, CHY1401, CHY2001, CHY2003, CHY2101, CHY2102, CHY2201, CHY2301, CHY2401, CHY3009, CHY3108, CHY3206, CHY3306, CHY3401, CHY3402, CHY8420, CHY8424, CHY8425, CHY8426, CHY8430
B3.	Analyse and interpret data	CHY1102, CHY1201, CHY1202, CHY1301, CHY1401, CHY2001, CHY2101, CHY2102, CHY2201, CHY2301, CHY2401, CHY3108, CHY3206, CHY3306, CHY3401, CHY3402, CHY8411, CHY8420, CHY8430
B4.	Independently plan and undertake a project	CHY2001, CHY8410, CHY8411
C1.	Work safely and independently in a laboratory	CHY1101, CHY1102, CHY1201, CHY1301, CHY2101, CHY2201, CHY2301, CHY3108, CHY3206, CHY3306, CHY8411
C2.	Plan and undertake an advanced practical course	CHY3108, CHY3206, CHY3306
C3.	Plan and undertake a research project	CHY8410, CHY8411
D1.	Communicate and express ideas orally and in writing	CHY1101, CHY1102, CHY1201, CHY1202, CHY1301, CHY1401, CHY2001, CHY2003, CHY2101, CHY2102, CHY2201, CHY2301, CHY2401, CHY3108, CHY3206, CHY3306, CHY3401, CHY3402, CHY8411
D2.	Work in a group environment	CHY2001, CHY8430
D3.	Manage time and complete work to	CHY1101, CHY1201, CHY1301, CHY1401,

deadlines	CHY2001, CHY2101, CHY2102, CHY2201, CHY2301, CHY2401, CHY3009, CHY3108, CHY3206, CHY3306, CHY3401, CHY3402, CHY8410, CHY8411, CHY8426
D4. Assess and form an opinion of other people's work	CHY2001, CHY2101, CHY3108, CHY3206, CHY3306
D5. Find information from a range of sources	CHY2102, CHY3009, CHY3108, CHY3206, CHY3306, CHY3401, CHY3402, CHY8425
D6. Be self-reliant	CHY3108, CHY3206, CHY3306, CHY8411, CHY8425
D7. Critically evaluate data and use when required	CHY3108, CHY3206, CHY3306, CHY3401, CHY3402, CHY8410, CHY8411