

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION



1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	MSc
4	Programme Title	Drug Chemistry
5	UCAS/Programme Code	5099
6	Programme Accreditation	N/A
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	Chemistry
8	FHEQ Level	Level 7
9	Last updated	July 2013

10 Programme Aims

1. To provide advanced training in modern drug chemistry
2. To provide an appreciation of how new drugs are developed, from their conception in the laboratory to their application, testing and subsequent industrial production
3. To provide an overview of the chemistry pertinent to modern drug design, as practiced in the pharmaceutical industry and in academia
4. To provide training in topics which constitute the “holy grail” of modern drug design and to introduce potential therapies not yet established commercially
5. To enable the student to achieve a high level of research competence and to gain experience through training in relevant aspects of laboratory work, including COSHH and safety
6. To provide the student with enhanced presentational skills.

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 know:

- A1 The two main branches of drug chemistry (organic and medicinal)
- A2 Practical laboratory Chemistry
- A3 Data analysis and numeracy
- A4 Spectroscopy and Chemical characterisation
- A5 Specialist aspects of drug chemistry
- A6 Research methods

Teaching and Learning Methods

Students acquire understanding and knowledge through lectures, seminars and workshops (**A1, A5**). In the laboratory class they consolidate the learning started in lectures by performing carefully designed and tested experiments (**A1, A2, A4**) and apply skill **A3**. Modules CHY8820, CHY8821, CHY8823 and CHY8824 cover some specialised areas of drug chemistry (**A5**). The Research Project, CHY8811, allows application and extension of taught material to the research environment (**A1–A6**). Throughout the period of the programme the student is expected to read around the taught material to supplement and strengthen the taught/learned work. Reading lists are provided to facilitate this.

Assessment Strategy
Knowledge and understanding is assessed through unseen written examinations and in-course assessment (A1, A3–A5), practical reports (A2) and oral examinations on the Research Project (A1–A6).
Intellectual Skills
On completing the programme students should be able to: B1 Critically evaluate data B2 Apply learnt knowledge to unseen problems B3 Analyse and interpret data B4 Independently plan and undertake a research project.
Teaching and Learning Methods
Intellectual skills are developed by means of the teaching and learning programme described above. Students apply the concepts learnt to problems in laboratory work, seminars and coursework assignments (B1–B3). Students develop skills B1–B4 in the design and conduct of the Research Project, CHY8811.
Assessment Strategy
Problem solving components of taught modules present in examinations and course work assess skills B1–B3 . The Research Project, CHY8811, assesses skills B1–B4 through written reports, oral presentations and oral examinations.
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.
Teaching and Learning Methods
Students receive close supervision from a demonstrator or member 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). Due to the diverse backgrounds of students on the programme initial experiments in CHY8824 have detailed procedures. Later experiments allow students to plan and design their experiments, work with a greater level of independence and perform more technically demanding procedures (C2). CHY8811 allows the students to plan and undertake a research project requiring diverse practical techniques. Research teams require coordination of the effort to achieve the desired goal (C3).
Assessment Strategy
C1 and C2 are assessed through practical reports (CHY8824). In addition to the final report, written and oral presentations are used to assess the planning and outcome of the Research Project, CHY8811 (C3).

Transferable/Key Skills
<p>On completing the programme students should be able to:</p> <p>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 peoples work D5 Find information from a range of sources D6 Be self-reliant D7 Critically evaluate data and use when required.</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods
<p>Both lecture courses (through assignments) and practical courses require the students to produce regular written work which is submitted to deadlines (D1, D3, D5, D6). Assignments may also require critical evaluation and interpretation of data (D7). Both CHY8824 and the Research Project provide the opportunity for students to plan work and solve problems as part of a team (D2). Peer assessment is introduced in a formative sense in CHY8824 and through the planning of the Research Project (D4). All skills (D1–D7) are further developed through the Research Project.</p>
Assessment Strategy
<p>Written work and oral examinations are used to assess skill D1. Assignments as part of the taught modules assess D1, D3, D5–D7. The Research Project evaluates skills D1–D7. D4 is addressed by peer assessment of individual contributions to the group effort and of team presentations on the Research Project. In addition skill D2 is assessed in CHY8824 or CHY8810.</p>
12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features
Basic structure of the programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the programme is offered in full time mode (1 year) or part time mode (2 year), to a total of 180 credits • the research project (CHY8811) is compulsory • successful completion of the programme leads to the award of the MSc degree
Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the taught programme highlights the key role of organic synthesis in drug discovery, including combinatorial synthesis, the use of radioisotopes, the concept of molecular recognition in the context of drug design and delivery. • the programme surveys the routes by which drugs are metabolised in the human body and details mechanisms of toxicity, reviews the mechanisms of action of the major drug classes used to treat infectious disease and cancer and demonstrates how modern drug design is performed. • the research project and dissertation will provide training in how to tackle and how to communicate the results of a significant research problem in drug chemistry. • the relevance of the programme to the pharmaceutical industry will be assured through the involvement of visiting scientists from leading pharmaceutical companies.
Programme regulations (link to on-line version)
<p>http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/programme/</p>

13 Criteria for admission

Entry qualifications

A minimum of an upper-second-class BSc Honours degree in a chemically related subject. Applicants whose first language is not English require an IELTS score of at least 6.0, TOEFL 79 (Internet-based), or equivalent.

Admissions policy/selection tools

Upon receipt of a completed application form, the admissions selector will offer a place on the basis of information given on the application form. UK based students are invited to visit the School and meet current students.

Applicants not based in the UK are not required for interview

Non-standard Entry Requirements

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

Additional Requirements

Level of English Language capability

IELTS 6.0 (or equivalent)

14 Support for Student Learning

The Student Services portal provides links to key services and other information and is available at: <http://my.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.

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 Development 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 Student Union 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, Learning and Student Experience 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, Learning and Student Experience Committee.

Programme reviews

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

External Examiner reports

External Examiner reports are considered by the Board of Studies. The Board responds to these reports through Faculty Teaching, Learning and Student Experience 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 student questionnaires. 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 six 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 one-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, Learning and Student Experience Committee on whether the programmes reviewed should be re-approved for a further six year period.

Accreditation reports

N/A

Additional mechanisms

N/A

16 Regulation of assessment

Pass mark

The pass mark is 50%

Course requirements

Progression is subject to the University's Masters Degree Progress Regulations, Taught and Research and Examination Conventions for Taught Masters Degrees. Limited compensation up to 40 credits of the taught element and down to a mark of 40% is possible and there are reassessment opportunities, with certain restrictions.

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

Summary description applicable to postgraduate Masters programmes

<50	Fail
50-59	Pass
60-69	Pass with Merit
70 or above	Pass with Distinction

Summary description applicable to postgraduate Certificate and Diploma programmes

<50	Fail
50 or above	Pass

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: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/requests/>

Degree Programme and University Regulations: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/>

The Degree Programme Handbook <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/chemistry/undergrad/degrees/>

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)

Intended Learning Outcome	Module codes (Compulsory in Bold)
A1. The two main branches of drug chemistry (organic and medicinal)	CHY8811, CHY8820, CHY8822, CHY8823, CHY8824, <i>CHY8828, CHY8829</i>
A2. Practical laboratory Chemistry	CHY8824, CHY8811
A3. Data analysis and numeracy	CHY8810, CHY8811, CHY8821, CHY8822, CHY8824,
A4. Spectroscopy and Chemical characterisation	CHY8811, CHY8821, CHY8824
A5. Specialist aspects of drug chemistry	CHY8821, CHY8822, CHY8823, CHY8824, <i>CHY8828, CHY8829</i>
A6. Research methods	CHY8810, CHY8811
B1. Critically evaluate data	CHY8811, CHY8821, CHY8824
B2. Apply learnt knowledge to unseen problems	CHY8810, CHY8811, CHY8820, CHY8821, CHY8824, <i>CHY8828, CHY8829</i>
B3. Analyse and interpret data	CHY8811, CHY8820, CHY8821, CHY8824
B4. Independently plan and undertake a research project	CHY8810, CHY8811
C1. Work safely and independently in a chemistry laboratory	CHY8811
C2. Plan and undertake an advanced practical course	CHY8824
C3. Plan and undertake a research project	CHY8810, CHY8811
D1. Communicate and express clearly ideas both orally and in writing	CHY8810, CHY8811, CHY8820, CHY8821, CHY8822, CHY8824, <i>CHY8828, CHY8829, INU8001</i>
D2. Work in a group environment	CHY8811, CHY8811
D3. Manage time and complete work to deadlines	CHY8811, CHY8820, CHY8821, CHY8824, <i>CHY8828, CHY8829, INU8001</i>
D4. Assess and form an opinion of other people's work	CHY8810, CHY8811
D5. Find information from a range of sources	CHY8810, CHY8811, CHY8820, CHY8821, CHY8824, <i>CHY8828, CHY8829</i>
D6. Be self-reliant	CHY8810, CHY8811, CHY8820, CHY8821, CHY8823, CHY8824
D7. Critically evaluate data and use when required	CHY8810, CHY8811, CHY8820, CHY8821, CHY8824