

Programme Specification

PGDip in Chemical Research (full time)
PGDip in Chemical Research (part time)

PFTZCHEMRSHD
PPTZCHEMRSHD

For students entering in September 2019

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	9 months (full time) 18 months (part time)
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content

This programme aims to provide a flexible course that enables students to acquire specialist research techniques and expertise in their chosen area of Chemistry. The ultimate aim of the programme is to fully prepare students for a career in Research and Development. Students will be trained to undertake practical and theoretical research in their specialist area of chemistry with guidance from an experienced researcher. This necessitates that all students will be able to establish the extent of published knowledge in the chosen field, understand and summarise that knowledge and be able to report formally, both orally and in writing. In addition, all students will be provided with a solid theoretical grounding of important concepts associated with their chosen research area and training in relevant database searching skills will be provided.

Module information

The programme comprises of 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
CHMRMS	Research Methods and Skills	10	7
CHMPRD	Research Project	90	7

The remaining credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Chemistry, Food and Pharmacy, or from an approved list of modules from across the University.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme can be taken part-time over 18 months. In the first year of study, a student will normally be required to complete optional modules totalling no less than 10 credits and no more than 20 credits, and start the compulsory modules CHMRMS and CHMPRD. In

the second year of study, a student will normally be required to complete the compulsory modules and any remaining optional modules.

Additional costs of the programme

Costs of the research project (CHMPRD) will be covered by the research expenses included in the offer letter.

Where applicable, core textbooks recommended for student purchase may cost around £15 to £25 per module; there may be other books/resources which you would find it convenient to buy. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A wide range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks, more specialist studies, and electronic resources, are available through the library.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost per A4 page of £0.05 (black and white) and £0.30 (colour). Students will be required to submit two soft-bound copies of the PGDip dissertation.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2018.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the programme. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Placement opportunities

The nature of the course does not provide scope for spending time abroad or in industry.

Teaching and learning delivery:

Teaching is organised in modules that may involve a combination of lectures and tutorials

Total study hours for your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is – 790 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

Not applicable

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of examinations and continual assessment. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

A student may progress to the MSc course at the 9-month stage (18-month for part-time students) provided the following criteria are satisfied:

1. A pass mark is achieved in the 20-credits worth of taught modules;
2. A 60% mark is achieved for the final project Report and the associated oral examination;
3. A pass mark is achieved in the Research Skills and Methods module

Part-time and modular progression requirements

Part-time students must submit Report 1 (CHMPRD) before the end of the first year.

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For PG Diploma

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits; and
- (ii) a mark of 70 or more for CHMPRD; and
- (iii) a pass mark in CHMRMS; and
- (iv) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits; and

- (ii) a mark of 60 or more for CHMPRD
- (iii) a pass mark in CHMRMS; and
- (iv) students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- (i) gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits; and
- (ii) a pass mark in CHMRMS; and
- (iii) students must not have any mark below 40.