

Careers in STEM: Science

Industrial chemist

Industrial chemists transform raw materials such as oil, natural gas, air, water, metals, and minerals into new products. They are experts in the chemical structures and properties of materials and they use their broad chemical knowledge to research and develop new chemicals and materials for a range of uses, from medicines to cosmetics.

An industrial chemist will first experiment with small-scale chemical reactions in a laboratory to create products and materials, and then work out how to transfer small scale production to large industrial scale.

Industrial chemists work globally in industries such as pharmacy, agriculture and farming, food and drink, medicine and healthcare, government departments and universities.

Useful skills for industrial chemists are:

- Problem solving and persistent attitude
- Creative and innovative thinker
- Good communication skills
- Ability to work independently and in a team

Industrial chemists will have a good background in GCSE English, Maths and Science, A Levels including Chemistry and an undergraduate degree course in chemistry or applied chemistry. It is also important to gain relevant work experience alongside study, which is often an option in many degree level courses.

Visit the following websites for more information about futures in chemistry:

<http://www.rsc.org/careers/future/career-options>

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles/chemist>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/chemistry>

