Chemistry has a global impact
Chemistry is relevant to all aspects of everyday life and chemists make the world a better place to live in. Chemists have some important challenges for the 21st century including making improvements in the environment, and developing new materials. Consequently, it is not surprising that thousands of students enrol in chemistry degree programmes each year. A degree in chemistry opens up many future careers from research and development to teaching, finance, management and teaching. There are two key stages of applying for a chemistry degree course: first, you will need to complete an application form and then you will need to sit for an exam (UK universities use UCAS). Once you have met all the academic requirements and the university is happy to accept you, you will be expected to complete your degree studies.

Choosing chemistry courses
It is important to do your research, first draw up a list of chemistry courses that interest you. Get advice from your teachers and perhaps your parents and friends. Use leaath to search for what different courses offer (e.g. www.ucas.ac.uk).

BSc or MChem/MSc?
- You will need to consider how useful the additional MChem/MSc year will be in preparing you for your kind career.

Meet the Universities
The UCAS system allows you to apply to up to eight universities. Once you have been accepted onto courses, you should meet with the university representatives and find out more about the chemistry department and meet members of staff and students.

Open days
Make the effort to attend University Open Days, which are often held over the summer vacation. You should get the opportunity to ask questions about the university and the chemistry department. You can check entry grades, discuss teaching methods, and look at the teaching and research facilities and student accommodation. We injactive? There is no substitute for getting a feel for a place.

Your application
You apply for up to 5 courses online through UCAS (www.ucas.ac.uk). As part of your application you need to submit a personal statement about why you want to study a chemistry course, how you've developed your knowledge and what your future curricular interests and career aspirations are. Your school/college will provide a reference to support your application, which will include your predicted grades. You will also need to provide details of your education and any employment you have had.

Parental guidance
Many departments encourage parents to come along.

Clearing
If you do not meet the conditions of the offers of your first or second choice university, UCAS will help you to find a vacancy on another course through Clearing. You should seek advice from your teachers on what courses are suitable.

Your replies
When you have received all of your offers, you will need to reply. You may accept your first choice and decline any other offers. You may accept your first and second choice and decline any other offers. You can make decisions without knowing from all your choices - think carefully before you decide because once you accept an offer, you are committed to that course.

Accepted
If you meet the conditions asked by your first choice university, you will be accepted onto that course. If not, your second choice university will accept the application... Assuming you make the conditions of this offer, you will be accepted onto your course.

Missed your offer
If you have just missed your offer, particularly if there are no more places available at the universities, you will need to contact the admissions tutor as soon as possible.

Printing the diagram
Dr Andrew Parf cry is the Chemistry Admissions Tutor at the University of York and is a member of the Editorial Board for CHEMISTRY REVIEW.
Katie Sayer is the Chemistry Admissions Officer at the University of York
(For information on our degree courses please see www.york.ac.uk/chemistry)