MSc in Medicinal Chemistry
Distance learning degree qualification
Qualification details

This postgraduate degree course enables you to study aspects of medicinal chemistry that explore the links between disease, mechanisms of action and the development of safe, effective commercial drugs.

You have the opportunity to pursue these topics across a number of different disease therapies using the innovative teaching methods pioneered by The Open University, while developing a wide range of skills associated with masters-level study. You study taught modules and take a medicinal chemistry project module that allows you to undertake a substantial piece of independent research based on the knowledge and skills you develop.

Career relevance and employability

Completing this degree course will equip you with a set of key transferable skills which will be relevant for the workplace as well as providing you with a base of postgraduate level science knowledge and understanding. You will learn to critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship within medicinal chemistry, as well as evaluating research methodologies. You will learn to deal with complex issues and make sound judgements and decisions in complex and unpredictable situations. You will learn to communicate information and conclusions to specialist scientific audiences, work effectively as part of a team, demonstrate self-direction and originality in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level.

The nature of this qualification will develop your independent learning skills, such as critical reading, as well as enhancing your ICT skills for both literature searching and managing information and strengthening your communication skills with others in both professional and academic contexts.

Having this qualification coupled with practical experience could open up career opportunities in various scientific and medical research fields in the public and private sectors, for example, pharmaceutical companies, medical research, universities, commercial laboratories, and independent healthcare providers.

Credit for previous study elsewhere

If you have already completed some successful study at postgraduate level at another institution you may be able to transfer credit for this study and count it towards this Open University qualification. If you wish to apply to transfer credit you must do so as soon as possible as it may affect your choice of OU modules. If you are awarded credit for study completed elsewhere, you may find that you need to study fewer OU modules to complete your qualification with us.

Modules

For this 180-credit masters degree you require:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postgraduate compulsory module</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developing research skills in science (S825)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molecules in medicine (S807)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept to clinic (S827)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSc project module for MSc in Medicinal Chemistry (SXM810)</td>
<td>60</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For more information and to register go to www.openuniversity.edu, or call +44 845 241 6555
FAQs

Can I study in any country?
This course is approved for study in most countries. Please use the Course Finder menu at www.openuniversity.edu to see if it is available in your country.

Is an OU qualification recognised in my country?
An OU degree is equal in academic standard to a degree from any other British university. The University is subject to the same quality assurance procedures, through the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), as all other British universities, and uses external assessors and examiners to ensure comparability of standard and level in its courses.
A leaflet is available on how you can apply for formal recognition in your country. To download the leaflet, please go to www.openuniversity.edu/brochures/recognition.pdf.

What tutor support will I receive?
The OU excels in its unrivalled support for students. You’ll have email and online support from a tutor and you will be able to discuss your study in online tutor group discussions, using our customised learning environment. Our community websites Platform and OpenLearn offer a different perspective on your subject, and a huge range of OU resources on YouTube and iTunes U can expand your understanding.
In addition, you can tap into a range of enthusiastic and welcoming OU social network groups on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Are there any entry requirements?
To gain entry to our postgraduate programmes you’ll normally need an undergraduate degree or equivalent. However, your previous work experience and study, or qualifications from other higher-education institutions, may all count towards programme entry.

As part of the registration process, however, you will be asked to confirm your proficiency in English (if you are unsure, you can take a short online test, please see our website www.openuniversity.edu for more information).

Can I count previous study towards an OU qualification?
Any higher-education level studies you’ve successfully completed elsewhere may count towards your OU degree or other qualification. We enable you to do this by awarding you a certain amount of ‘transferred credit’. By transferring credit gained from previous study, you can reduce the amount you need from OU study to achieve your qualification. For more information please go to www.openuniversity.edu.

How do you work towards a qualification?
We measure the size of our qualifications in credits - you need 120 credits for the diploma and 180 credits for the masters degree.

How long does it take?
Our qualifications are designed to be flexible. So if you want to vary the amount of time you spend studying, you can. The table below is a guide on the time required, but call us today to discuss how you can vary the study intensity and therefore the time taken to complete your course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postgraduate qualifications</th>
<th>Credits required</th>
<th>Time required to complete</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>2 years part-time study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters degree</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>3-4 years part-time study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For illustrative purposes only – in most cases you can vary the number of credits taken per year and therefore the time taken to complete the course.

How much will it cost?
You pay for your postgraduate studies module by module, rather than for an entire programme up front. Therefore, the total cost of a qualification may vary according to which modules you choose and how long you take to complete your degree.
The EU fee for this qualification in 2012/13 is:
£7,180

Please note: prices are approximate and subject to change. Please check our website or call us for latest details.

For information please go to www.openuniversity.edu and view the details on the Courses pages.

When can I start?
There are two intakes a year – October and November.

Can I meet and network with other students?
Definitely – when you start with the OU you automatically become a member of the Open University Student Association (OUSA). OUSA also runs a popular student forum site. For more information, go to www.ousa.org.uk.
Once you have gained your qualification, you can join the OU Alumni Association, our vibrant and active alumni community with 280,000 members worldwide. You will enjoy many membership benefits, including regular newsletters, good networking opportunities and access to the alumni website.

How is my privacy protected?
We record your personal information when you contact us and use this to manage registration, study, examination and other services. When you register, we’ll tell you more about how we process and use your personal information.

When should I apply?
Apply as early as you can – particularly if you wish to claim for credit for previous study. Registration open dates are shown in the Courses section on each qualification page at www.openuniversity.edu.
What do I need to do next?

It takes just 2 simple steps.

Begin the process to secure your place.
Here’s how easy it is.

1. Register now

Go to www.openuniversity.edu, select the Courses section and the degree you require. You will then be asked to select your first module to register.

Alternatively call us on +44 845 241 6555.

Don’t worry, you don’t need to pay anything at this stage.

As soon as you have registered you’ll get an email confirmation which contains your login details.

2. Choose your first module, make payment to enrol

Before you start studying you will need to choose and register on your first modules and arrange payment; instructions for this will be emailed to you.

Once complete you will officially be an Open University student – welcome!