

# Applied Chemistry



Applied chemists study the make-up and behaviour of chemicals. They may then use their findings to develop new products and processes.

## INDUSTRY ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To work at the technician level, a Bachelor's degree in chemistry, biochemistry or a related science is required. To become a research chemist you usually need to have a Master's degree in chemistry, biochemistry or a related science. However, a PhD and further postdoctoral study is preferred.

## HOW MUCH COULD I EARN AFTER MY DEGREE?

Applied science graduates could start at \$35,000 a year, moving up to about \$50,000 depending on their experience and performance. Pay for permanent research chemist positions varies depending on postgraduate qualifications and experience.

## WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF GETTING A JOB?

Applied chemistry is one science research area that the Government has prioritised for funding from July 2010. This is likely to mean funding for applied chemistry will rise, which should lead to more opportunities for people working in this area. Also, applied research gets significant funding from businesses developing new technologies and products.

## WHAT TYPE OF EMPLOYERS CAN I WORK FOR?

Applied research chemists work for a variety of employers such as:

- Crown Research Institutes (CRIs) eg. Industrial Research Ltd
- Universities
- Private research and development companies

## CAREER PROGRESSION

Demand for research chemists who have knowledge of other related fields is growing. These fields include:

- Management and marketing
- Environmental studies (including atmospheric chemistry, water chemistry, soil chemistry, and energy)
- Law (knowledge of patent laws for the products they develop)
- Bioengineering
- Computing (modelling and simulation in chemistry experiments, and to operate computerised laboratory equipment)

Information Source: [www.careers.govt.nz](http://www.careers.govt.nz)

Choosing the Applied Chemistry major and Microbiology minor has given Triston Insley-Youngkin the career diversity he was looking for. "A chemistry degree allows me to work in many different scientific fields such as biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, environmental, petrochemical and others." Triston is managing the clinical manufacturing phase as a senior research associate with Elan Pharmaceuticals in San Francisco, California.



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