Module description

This module requires students to undertake individual investigations within defined topics in molecular science. Investigations are literature based and students are given access to the primary scientific literature, largely via electronic library sources. The module materials provide a guide to planning and conducting project work; help with searching and using the literature; writing three tutor-marked assignments (TMAs) and writing 5,000 word report as the end-of module assignment (EMA). Students are informed that their tutor’s main role is to help them with the process of carrying out a project, rather than to answer detailed questions about the science involved. Tutor support is provided by email, telephone, online tuition, and electronic conferencing.

Students may be allowed to undertake practical projects or include a practical element to their project provided they have appropriate subject knowledge and expertise.

Person specification

The person specification for this module should be read in conjunction with the generic person specification for an associate lecturer at The Open University.

As well as meeting all the requirements set out in the generic person specification, you should have:

- a degree and a background in chemistry or a chemistry-related subject
- knowledge of and experience in teaching chemistry at undergraduate level
- the ability to supervise projects in all the following areas: biopolymers, combinatorial chemistry, fuel cells, nanotechnology, the outer limits of the periodic table, porous materials, metals in medicine, drug design and synthesis and Chemistry Education Research.
- enthusiasm for teaching your subject
- familiarity with appropriate literature, whether on the Web or in print
- willingness to support students in using all relevant literature
- experience of supervising university-level project work
- ability to foster independence in students undertaking such work
- confidence to be proactive in supporting and encouraging independent distance learners
- ability to help your students develop the necessary learning skills for project work
- ability to lead online forums
- ability to organise and run online tutorials using OU Live
- ready and regular availability by telephone and email to provide individual student support.

Additional information

- Online forums are organised so that students can benefit from the specific expertise of all the module tutors.
- You will be expected to hold at least one online tutorial using OU Live at the beginning of the module to introduce your students to the module and process of undertaking project work.
- You will be required to mark the three tutor-marked assignments (TMAs).
You will also be expected to mark the c.10 end-of-module assignments (EMAs) from your own student group, and act as the second marker for c.10 EMAs from other tutor groups. There is extra payment for EMA marking.

*Module related details - a full explanation can be found on the website*

| Credit awarded to the student for the successful completion of a module: | 30 |
| Number of assignments submitted by the student: | 3 |
| Method of submission for assignments: | 1a |
| Level of ICT requirements: | 2 |
| Number of students likely to be in a standard group: | 10 |
| Salary band: | 4 |
| Estimated number of hours per teaching week: | 4 |