Scientific Research and Communication MSc

Full-time Taught Masters Programme

2017-18
Contents

The University of Warwick 2
About the Scientific Research and Communication MSc 4
Scientific Research and Communication Overview 5
Scientific Research and Communication Modules 6
After You Graduate 10
Entry Requirements and Application 12
The University of Warwick

The success and reputation of the University of Warwick lies in a unique blend of entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to absolute academic excellence.

Warwick’s International Community contributes greatly to the vibrant, cosmopolitan atmosphere on campus. With over 100 different nationalities represented you will be working and living with people from all over the world.

Accommodation consists of modern, comfortable rooms on campus, mostly en-suite and with high-speed internet and network access. Residences are set in pleasant parklands close to all the campus facilities.

Warwick’s Students’ Union is one of the largest in the country with over 250 societies to choose from. Student events such as ‘one world week’ are internationally recognised and mirror the University’s reputation for innovation and dynamism.

Warwick Sport provides every opportunity for you to try something new or compete in your sport. It offers over 70 different sports clubs, a swimming pool, gym, indoor climbing wall, all-weather tennis courts, 60 acres of outdoor playing fields and much more.

Warwick Arts Centre houses two theatres, a cinema, a 1,400 seat concert hall, the Mead Art Gallery, and a specialised music centre. It is nationally recognised as an outstanding venue for both famous and new artists.

The International Office provides a wide range of services for both prospective and current students, including immigration advice, welfare support and an orientation programme for those new to the UK.

Warwick University’s Campus is an award-winning 700 acre, self-contained campus in the heart of England yet just one hour from London. With fantastic facilities and excellent access to local towns, cities and countryside, it provides an attractive, safe and supportive environment in which to live and study.
A member of the Russell Group, Warwick has consistently been ranked within the UK ‘top ten’ and is positioned within the top 50 universities in the world.

The Library holds over 1 million printed titles and 16,000 electronic journals and offers outstanding resources. The University’s acclaimed ‘Learning Grid’ provides a 24/7 relaxed learning environment with an impressive range of multimedia equipment.

Warwick Careers Service gives students a real head-start in their job searches. Voted by students as the best in the country, the careers service provides outstanding guidance and support. Warwick University is widely recognised by employers as an ideal recruiting ground.

Language Support is offered by The Centre for Applied Linguistics. The Programme in English for Postgraduate Studies (PEPs) prepares students in academic English over 1, 2 or 3 terms. Six or ten week pre-sessional English courses may also be offered if you narrowly miss the English language criteria for Master’s study.

Worship is encouraged by the multi-faith Chaplaincy which welcomes all members of the University community. It is home to Christian, Jewish and Muslim chaplains who, as a valued part of the University’s welfare network, offer spiritual and emotional support.
About the Scientific Research and Communication MSc

The success and reputation of Masters study at Warwick is measured through track record; attracting the very best students for over ten years and having graduated over 100 students in the process.

General Overview
The Scientific Research and Communication MSc combines top quality English Language teaching from the Centre of Applied Linguistics, with advanced scientific teaching and research from the highly rated Faculty of Science at the University of Warwick.

There is a large range of modules on offer (>50) and subject to timetabling constraints, the choice, depending on your scientific skills and interests, is entirely up to you.

Learning Style
The taught component of the programme is a blend of formal lectures, seminars, syndicate work and practical exercises, which encourages teamwork and practical grounding of the material. E-learning and forum activities are widely used to complement these.

Modules are usually taught in an intensive block, allowing you to be fully immersed in each subject area. Tutors are highly qualified and work at the forefront of their specialisation.

A 24 week research project enables you to immerse yourself in a real research project, once again supervised by renowned academics in their field.

Assessment
Performance in modules is assessed by both module assignments and post module examinations. The research component is assessed through a 15,000 word thesis and a presentation.

Industrial interactions
Warwick has a long standing strong relationship with Industry. Several of the modules in the Scientific Research and Communications MSc are taught in collaboration with Industry, the students have a chance to undertake industry led research projects and placements.

Careers
Our recent graduates have gone on to pursue PhD research at Warwick and other universities in the UK and internationally or taken up careers in industry or academia.

The Scientific Research and Communication MSc is delivered by internationally leading experts from the Departments of Chemistry, Physics, Statistics, Engineering and Life Sciences as well as guest lectures from our industrial partners.
The academic programme is both highly challenging and rewarding. Innovative teaching methods are used to ensure our students engage practically with their studies and are well equipped on graduation to apply this to real world scenarios.

The Scientific Research and Communication MSc is structured so that each student takes a combination of eight taught modules and completes a major 24 week research project.

Help at hand
A personal tutor is assigned to you from the outset of your MSc, whose role is to provide general academic advice on: (i) progress/development; (ii) pastoral/non-academic matters; (iii) assist you with induction and orientation into university life at Warwick; and (iv) a range of other advice from course changes to financial and accommodation issues.

Modules
Modules consist of nominally 50 hours of directed tuition usually delivered in an intensive, fully immersive block. A variety of innovative teaching methods are used to maximise learning and ensure students are well equipped to apply their knowledge in the work place on completion of the course.

Core modules are compulsory and relate specifically to the Scientific Research and Communication MSc. There is also a transferrable skills module that is common to all our MSc programmes as we recognise the crucial importance that these skills play in the real world.

Research Project
Each student has to undertake a major individual research project. This accounts for 40% of the overall credit and is submitted in the form of a dissertation of approximately 15,000 words. A presentation is held upon completion.

Near the mid point of the course you will be provided with a list of projects relevant to your degree course. However, we can also usually accommodate supervision of projects proposed by students specifically focused on their individual career paths or aspirations.

The project must fulfill the academic requirements of the course. All projects are supervised by a contributing department member of staff and many relate closely to research developments in industry or research at Warwick.

Work on your project runs subsequently to your module work, and offers you an opportunity to immerse yourself in an exciting and modern area of Scientific Research and Communication.
Scientific Research and Communication MSc Modules

Core Modules

CH933 Writing Extended Scientific Articles

The aims of this module are: to allow students to develop and demonstrate their capacity to communicate scientific research through writing extended articles; to provide an excellent learning environment in which students can discuss their written work and engage in peer review; to encourage students to systematically think of writing and researching as processes with distinct phases; to facilitate the development of a range of critical thinking skills, transferable to a range of careers relating to Chemistry; and to enable the development of a range of key skills in communicating science, transferable to a range of career options.

The syllabus includes: writing and research as a process; the extended scientific paper; a genre-based approach to writing scientific texts; appropriate use and reference to the literature; accuracy of language in scientific writing; self and peer editing skills; and action planning and identifying strengths and weaknesses.

CH934 Writing Focused Scientific Articles and Reports

The aims of this module are: to allow students to develop and demonstrate their capacity to communicate scientific concepts through writing focused articles; to allow students to engage with a variety of academic writing strategies to describe scientific procedures, present results and write instructions; to provide an excellent learning environment in which students can discuss their written work and engage in peer review; to encourage students to think of writing as a process; to facilitate the development of a variety of critical thinking skills, transferable to a range of careers relating to the sciences; and to enable the development of a range of key skills in communicating science, transferable to a range of career options.

CH935 Communicating Science to Different Audiences

The aims of this module are: to allow students to develop and demonstrate their capacity to communicate scientific research to a range of specialised and non-specialised audiences; to provide experience in using a range of media to communicate science including newspaper, web, radio and TV; to give student experience on both sides of the media ‘divide’; to facilitate the development of a range of critical thinking skills, transferable to a range of science; and to enable the development of a range of key skills in communicating science, transferable to a range of career options including the academic, industrial, and other sectors.
The syllabus includes: How news stories start and develop; attributes that make a good news story; information sources for science/technology news stories; the relative strengths of different media – written/radio/television/web; appraisal of recent science news stories; identifying current “hot topics” suitable for TV and radio presentation; interviewing principles and procedures; editing procedures: ethical considerations; TV studio production procedures: personnel and their functions, pre-recording preparations; contribution to (recorded) TV programme; radio studio production procedures: personnel and their functions, pre-recording preparations; contribution to (recorded) radio programme; press releases; and interviews.

CH956 Scientific Research Skills
This module focuses on specific aspects involved in undertaking original research at the university level. Some of the skills are technical, but many of them transcend the details of a particular project. This module covers a range of transferable skills that will enable students to use their intrinsic academic ability and scientific creativity to produce world class research.

Elective Modules
Students have to choose 5 other MSc level modules from the wide selection (>50) offered by the faculty of science.

Research Project
Each Scientific Research and Communication MSc student carries out an individual research project (24 weeks full-time). Projects are proposed by members of staff from the Chemistry, Physics, Statistics, Life Sciences and Engineering Departments, and students join their respective research teams for the duration of the project. Projects cover a wide range of topics including the ‘Role of kinesin in human cell migration’ and many others.
After you graduate

The diverse skills-set that you acquire during your Masters course will help shape your career. Former graduates have secured positions in patent offices, newspapers, industry or have continued their study towards a PhD.

Finding a job

Our greatest resource is the knowledge and network base of our world leading academics, which they have built over many years. They will provide you with guidance in making sure you utilise your skills-set to your fullest potential. The well established links with leading research groups, both in the UK and worldwide, along with the strong links with chemical and pharmaceutical industries will ensure that a career path in academia or industry is well within your grasp. Our academics will assist you in many aspects of career advice including preparing your CV to providing you with practice interviews. Our track record of success speaks for itself!
“Studying at Warwick was incredibly useful and interesting. The flexibility in module choice allows the course to be tailored to your own interests, whilst keeping a focus on improving your scientific writing.”

Andy Lunn
2015 Graduate
Entry Requirements and Application

Warwick is a world class university that will provide you with a qualification that is recognised internationally. While our standards are very high, we encourage you to contact us to discuss your potential study with us.

Entry Requirements
Admission onto the Scientific Research and Communication MSc programme requires at least a British Second Class Honors Degree or Overseas equivalent. The Scientific Research and Communication MSc programme requires a physical sciences background but candidates from other disciplines may also be considered – please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

English Language Requirements
Non-native speakers of English must satisfy the English language requirements:
- IELTS 6.5*
- PTE (Pearson) 62*
- Three years of UG study in an English speaking country
*minimum element scores apply

Course Duration
- 12 months duration
- Start date: 25 September 2017

How to Apply
Applications are made online at: www2.warwick.ac.uk/pgapply
The cost of a single application is £50.

The following supporting documents are required:
- Academic transcripts and certificates
- Two academic references
- English language qualifications

Tuition Fees (2017-18)
- UK and EU fee payers £8,170
- Overseas fee payers £23,460
- New PGT loans information at: www.warwick.ac.uk/chemistry/masters/fees

Scholarships
The Department of Chemistry will be awarding scholarships for the October 2017 intake. For more details, www.warwick.ac.uk/chemistry/masters/fees

Contact us at: chem-pgt@warwick.ac.uk
Getting to Warwick

Warwick is located in central England, making it easy to reach by road, rail or air. Public transport links are plentiful, with bus stops across campus, train stations a short distance away and a national coach service operating close to our campus.

- 1 hour to London by train
- Nearest airport: Birmingham International 20 minutes
- Nearest train: Coventry
Getting in touch

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