

STUDYING CHEMISTRY IN KRAKÓW – OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

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Faculty of Chemistry of the Jagiellonian University (JU) is one of the top research and higher education units in Poland. Since 2013 it has the highest A+ scientific category awarded by the Ministry of Science. Our community comprises over 200 scientists and lecturers, about 700 students and 140 PhD students. Our premises are located in the 3rd JU Campus, in one of the most modern buildings of this type in Poland, completed in 2017.

JU Faculty of Chemistry offers three separate study programs: chemistry, medicinal chemistry and sustainable chemistry, each at the undergraduate and master's level. All these programs are offered in Polish, although some courses are also available in English. Chemistry graduates are well prepared to work in public and commercial organisations, including chemical industry, analytical laboratories, environmental protection, higher education, science, research and development. Graduates of the medicinal chemistry are educated in chemical sciences and in selected areas of biological, pharmaceutical and medical sciences. They are qualified to work in research and industrial laboratories in the fields of biotechnology, biomedicine, pharmaceuticals, etc. The sustainable chemistry programme educates specialists with competencies in modern pro-ecological technologies, necessary for future challenges related to environmental protection, climate changes and sustainable development. Students of all the programs may complete additional chemistry teachers' course in order to obtain qualifications for teaching chemistry at primary and secondary schools. Graduates of all the programs may continue their education and professional development by enrolling to the chemistry program in the JU Doctoral School of Exact and Natural Sciences.

In addition to learning according to the accredited and highly ranked study programs, all our students may benefit from many opportunities available, including taking part in scientific investigations carried out by one of 37 research teams, participation in the international exchange programs (e.g. Erasmus+), or involvement in activities of the students' scientific clubs. Most important challenges encountered by our students are related to their inadequate learning outcomes from the secondary school level, especially concerning mathematics, physics and chemistry. In the case of foreigners low level of proficiency in Polish may become a major barrier in studying.