Why Study at the University of Alberta?

1. Our Faculty
With 35 active faculty members the Department of Chemistry offers an unparalleled breadth and variety of research in all areas of chemistry. You can be part of this cutting-edge research at U of A in traditional areas of analytical, inorganic, organic, and physical chemistry, as well as interdisciplinary and emerging areas such as bioanalytical, bioorganic, materials chemistry, and nanotechnology.

Our faculty have strong international reputations for excellence in research and teaching, and have won numerous awards. Much of this work has been highlighted on the covers of leading peer-reviewed journals. With such a large, experienced, and well-regarded faculty, new Graduate students in Chemistry enjoy a great deal of freedom in choosing a research supervisor with whom to apprentice. There are also often several faculty members who are experts in your chosen research area, so you have more than one person to consult. Being in a large active department allows us to provide more course offerings at the graduate level and to hold a very active seminar program with renowned speakers visiting from around the world.

There are several new research initiatives in which chemistry faculty are active.

   The Alberta Ingenuity Centre for Carbohydrate Science (www.aiccs.com)
   The U of A Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS) (www.science.ualberta.ca/CCIS.cfm)
   The National Institute for Nanotechnology (nint-innt.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/home/index_e.html):

2. Our World-Class Facilities.
Our students have access to two new leading edge facilities, the National Institute of Nanotechnology (NINT) and the Centennial Center for Interdisciplinary Science.

The instrumentation facilities and research support infrastructure in the Department of Chemistry are outstanding, well-equipped with cutting edge instruments and among the best in the nation (see www.chem.ualberta.ca/about/research_support.html). Additional laboratory services include in-house elemental analysis and spectral services. The technical shops and services, which include Electronic Instrument Services, Machine Shop, Glassblowing Shop, and Computing and Networking Services, are professionally staffed to provide you with rapid turn-around of custom-design work and repair services. Access to outstanding facilities in other departments on campus and the National Institute of Nanotechnology is also available.

A unique feature of our Department is that the instrumentation facilities are headed by Faculty Service Officers (FSOs), experts in their respective fields who hold tenured positions and can provide you with knowledgeable advice on interpretation of your data.
3. Financial Support. Financial support is guaranteed by the Department of Chemistry to all students for at least 2.5 (M.Sc.) and 5 (Ph.D.) years. We offer very generous incentives to new and continuing Graduate Students. Effective September 2008, the minimum stipend for non-scholarship incoming students will be $24,000 per annum for a full-time Graduate Teaching and Research Assistantship. This amount is subject to annual performance based pay increases as outlined in the Graduate Student Association’s Collective Agreement. Full-time graduate teaching assistantships to instruct undergraduate classes and laboratories normally imply a workload of 12 hours per week with an average of 6-8 contact hours per week. Also, a number of our research faculty hold very prestigious grants and are able to “buy-out” their Graduate students – no teaching, just research work – which pays the same salary.

Nearly ¼ (50+) of our Graduate students receive scholarships (and a reduced teaching load!) or hold grants of their own. These include NSERC Fellowships, Alberta Ingenuity Scholarships, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research Awards, etc. In addition, the University of Alberta administers more than 2,300 scholarships worth over $21 million. One of the more popular ones, the Walter Johns, is awarded to all NSERC recipients and covers the entire cost of tuition. Two others are the Provost and FS Chia entrance awards, designed specifically to attract the best Domestic and International students to the U of A. The Department of Chemistry can nominate exceptional students for numerous internal awards that have strict deadlines. For this reason, it is important that applicants provide the department with a completed application package as soon as possible to maximize eligibility. Simply stated, APPLY EARLY!!! Please consult our web site for a list of all scholarships for which you may be eligible (www.chem.ualberta.ca/graduate/grad_scholarships.html).

4. Tuition and Fees For detailed information see the Graduate Fees Guide:
www.gradstudies.ualberta.ca/regfees/index.htm

Other expenses to consider are individual course costs (e.g., books, etc.). Depending on the courses taken, these costs can amount to a total of ~$200-500 during graduate studies.

5. Course requirements. Ph.D. students are required to take 4 one-term courses, present a departmental seminar, and pass a candidacy exam. M.Sc. students are required to take 3 one-term courses.

6. Living and playing. Edmonton, Alberta is experiencing unprecedented growth and still offers a reasonable cost of living, comparable with other major Canadian cities. There is no provincial sales tax and Alberta’s personal income tax is the lowest of all the provinces. Social life is exciting in Edmonton, with many annual festivals, exemplary restaurants, and plenty of popular, cultural venues. Our students enjoy studying and living in Edmonton - a vibrant and beautiful city in Western Canada – and the Department of Chemistry makes every effort to help everyone feel at home.

7. Admissions: A Step-by-Step Guide. Follow the application procedure described in detail on our web site: www.chem.ualberta.ca/graduate/grad_apply.html

8. Who can you contact for more information?

Graduate Recruitment Committee:

Eric Rivard (Inorganic/Materials/Nanotechnology), erivard@ualberta.ca;
James Harynuk (Analytical), james.harynuk@ualberta.ca;
Chris Cairo (Organic/Chemical Biology), ccairo@ualberta.ca;
Alex Brown (Chair, Physical), alexander.brown@ualberta.ca.

You may also direct your questions or concerns regarding the graduate chemistry program to:

Mrs. Julienne Loppnow,
Graduate Admissions Advisor
Phone: (780) 492-4414
E-mail: gradadmission@chem.ualberta.ca