

Performance of chemistry research at the University of Manchester in 2025 – Nature Index

Source

<https://www.nature.com/nature-index/institution-outputs/United%20Kingdom%20%28UK%29/The%20University%20of%20Manchester%20%28UoM%29/5139073234d6b65e6a0021ef>

Methodology

The Nature Index tracks primary research articles from [145 natural-science and health-science journals](#), chosen based on reputation by an independent group of researchers. The Nature Index provides absolute Count of primary research articles and fractional Share counts of author contribution to articles.

Difference with other rankings

Unlike general rankings like, QS or THE, which build their score by aggregating a variety of indicators such as reputation, outputs, students experience, employability... The Nature Index is based solely on the **absolute number of outputs** based on the methodology described above. Consequently, the ranking is skewed towards larger institutions with many publishing academics. Nevertheless, UoM is ranked 82nd worldwide and 3rd in the UK behind Oxford (44th) and Cambridge (50th, see full list at: <https://www.nature.com/nature-index/supplements/nature-index-2026-chemistry/tables/academic>).

Findings

The Nature Index indicates that chemistry is **the strongest research area** at the University of Manchester, both nationally and internationally. In the most recent 12-month window (Feb 2025–Jan 2026), Manchester ranks **3rd in the UK for chemistry by Share** and **100th globally (82nd if umbrella organisations are removed (e.g. Max Planck))**, highlighting its position among leading chemistry research institutions.

Chemistry contributes a substantial portion of the university's high-quality research output, with **197 articles and a Share of ~76.95**, making it the **largest subject-area contribution** (Figures 1) and **best-ranked subject area** (Figure 2) **at UoM**

The research profile shows broad strength across subfields, particularly **physical chemistry, organic chemistry and materials/macromolecular chemistry**, alongside strong links to nanotechnology.

Over a five-year period, chemistry output has shown **recent growth (rising to a Share of ~88 in 2024)**, suggesting renewed momentum after a modest dip earlier in the decade.

Overall, the Nature Index data confirm that Manchester's chemistry research is **highly competitive within the UK and internationally**, with strong publication output in top-tier journals and sustained breadth across key subdisciplines.

Research outputs by subject area

Subject	 ⓘ Count	 ⓘ Share
 ■ Biological sciences	149	24.53
 ■ Chemistry	197	76.95
 ■ Earth & environmental sciences	55	10.74
 ■ Health sciences	166	16.20
 ■ Physical sciences	346	49.33



Note: Hover over the donut graph to view the Share for each subject.

Note: Articles may be assigned to more than one subject area, as a result the sum of the subject research outputs may not equal the overall research outputs.

Figure 1. Research output by subject area at UoM for the period Feb 2025–Jan 2026.

Position by research output ⓘ Share in subject areas

	Global	United Kingdom (UK)
Biological sciences	209	14
Chemistry	100	3
Earth & environmental sciences	227	11
Health sciences	185	12
Physical sciences	151	6

Figure 2. National and international ranks of subject area at UoM.