

Risk Assessment for Students Coming into the Undergraduate Teaching Laboratories to Carry Out Practical Work.

Background

School students from 10 to 19 years of age come into the undergraduate teaching laboratories for a variety of practical workshops. The students should be of sufficient ability such that they are considered by their teachers to be capable of studying chemistry at the next stage of their education.

Most students are accompanied by their teachers on a ratio of no worse than that recommended by their schools but at least 1 responsible adult to 16 students (depending on age).

Prior to Arrival at the School of Chemistry

Safety information is sent out to the teacher in charge of the trip to be passed on to all students and staff attending the laboratories. This may be found at:

http://www.chemlabs.bris.ac.uk/outreach/chemnet/Chemnet_safety.html (reproduced below).

Safety Briefing Prior to Entry into the Laboratories

The School Teacher Fellow or the ChemLabS staff member responsible for leading the session will go through the safety requirements of the School of Chemistry and what to do in the event of a Fire Alarm sounding.

On Entry to Laboratories

1. Lockers will be used for all personal materials.
2. Safety glasses and lab coats will be provided to both the students and the staff. Teaching staff will be identified by their wearing orange or black lab coats.
3. Disposable rubber (or non-latex) gloves will be worn by students and staff.

Postgraduate Demonstrators

Postgraduate demonstrators will normally be SEAS or STEM ambassador trained and will have a current Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check. They will report to the labs 30 minutes before the scheduled arrival of the school students to go through the practical requirements. There is usually one postgraduate student for a maximum of 20 students at most, but one for 16 typically.

Students with Special Needs

Teachers of any student with special needs should notify Bristol ChemLabS (sue.williams@bristol.ac.uk) of the nature of special needs in advance so that a separate assessment may be made.

Practical Work

All practical work will be written in a style appropriate to the age group with the risk assessments for chemicals used recorded on the worksheets.

Risk Assessments for Lecture Theatres and other Areas

These are detailed elsewhere.

Bristol ChemLabS Health and Safety

Students and accompanying staff will be expected to follow the School of Chemistry's rules for visiting school scientists on health and safety in the laboratories as well as the specific health and safety requirements of the experiments.



photo by riot_jane

Failure to observe safety rules by students or accompanying teachers, including inappropriate clothing, will result in no admission to/removal from the laboratories!

[Bristol ChemLabS](#) has a more than sufficient supply of lab coats and safety glasses available for students and accompanying staff. However, students or staff may also bring their own if they so wish.

Safety precautions for all schools users of the chemistry Undergraduate Teaching Laboratories (students and teachers)

- SAFETY GLASSES MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES. Even if you normally wear glasses, safety glasses or goggles must be worn over them.



- Dress like a chemist. Wear clothing in the laboratory that will provide maximum body coverage. When carrying out experimental work you **MUST** wear a fastened lab coat. **Shorts, mini-skirts or shoes that expose the top of the foot* are NOT allowed in the Teaching Laboratories.** *Prohibited footwear includes sandals, flip flops and ballet shoes. Trainers are fine.
- In case of a large chemical spill on your body or clothes, stand under the safety shower and flood the contaminated area with water. Remove contaminated clothing to prevent further reaction with the skin.

- Make sure you acquaint yourself with the location of fire extinguishers, fire blankets and, most importantly, the fire exits. If the fire alarms sound, make your working area safe and leave the building as directed by the laboratory staff.
- Eating and drinking is strictly prohibited. This includes chewing gum.
- Keep long hair tied back and ensure that long or large necklaces are safely tucked away.
- Mobile phones, personal stereos etc. must be switched off when entering the laboratory. Anything that interferes with your ability to hear what is going on in the laboratory is a potential hazard.
- You are strongly advised not to wear contact lenses in the laboratory, even under safety glasses. Solvent vapours can build up behind the lens. 'Soft' contacts are especially dangerous as solvents can dissolve in the lenses themselves and be released over several hours.
- After reading any warnings and recommendations, use all chemicals carefully and in a fume hood whenever possible. Dispose of solvents properly. Immediately return any chemicals you have used to the shelves for other students to use.
- Keep your work area tidy and clean up any spills, including water, on the floor.
- Report all accidents and dangerous incidents
- Wash your hands carefully when you leave
- Assume you are the only safe worker in the laboratory. Work defensively!

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