

# University Centre Colchester

## Student Charter

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## 1. Welcome from the Dean

Studying a subject at university is a decisive, and deciding, moment in anyone's life.

Decisive, because you will be gaining expert knowledge in an area that is so important to you that you have decided to invest in it time, money and a clear sense of commitment.

Deciding, because you will be developing lots of skills beside your chosen subject, all of which contribute to shaping you as a person. This may include gaining insights into different occupations or job markets, furthering your understanding of commonalities and differences in skill sets, or quite simply interacting with a wide range of often very different people.

This institution has prepared its students for employment for over half a century. Unsurprisingly, our graduates work all over the UK, and in many different subjects, from Performing & Visual Arts to Business, IT, Construction & Engineering, Education, and Health.

Quantifying what constitutes the University Centre Colchester (UCC) student experience is surprisingly easy. We are a university community in which smaller class sizes, and extensive student support really matter. Our staff are all practitioners, whatever their subjects. We believe in developing practical skills that are underpinned by asking the right questions, and evaluating what we do, and why. By the time you leave University Centre Colchester, this way of working will have equipped you with versatile skills for an ever-evolving job market.

University Centre Colchester is a place where staff recognise what drives you, and are focused on developing you as a person and as a professional.

*Nils Franke*

Dean of Higher Education



## **2. About the Charter**

The Student Charter has been developed jointly by students and staff at the University Centre Colchester.

All students are encouraged to read this document so that they know what they can expect, and what is expected of them during their time at University. The Charter is not a binding contract as such, but outlines a commonly accepted set of principles. These principles are based on the understanding that Learning & Teaching at University Centre Colchester is an effective partnership, in which University Centre Colchester and its staff have professional obligations and where students are also responsible for themselves as learners and as individuals.

The Charter is reviewed annually by staff and student representatives.

### **3. Student Charter**

#### **Students can expect University Centre Colchester to:**

- Provide an excellent and varied learning experience;
- Deliver courses with relevant content informed by practitioner research and employer requirements;
- Listen to students by being open to constructive student feedback and encouraging student participation in shaping the learning experience;
- Facilitate access to learning resources that allow students to excel in their studies;
- Offer opportunities to develop skills and knowledge useful for life beyond university;
- Provide support and advice to students in areas such as studying, finance, careers, wellbeing and accommodation.

#### **Students can expect staff to:**

- Respond and communicate in a timely and effective manner;
- Offer constructive feedback on course and class work;
- Teach in a communicative and engaging way that promotes learning;
- Provide high quality pastoral and learning support when needed;
- Make reasonable adjustments in line with statutory requirements;
- Acknowledge the student body as being a diverse collection of adults who are partners in the Higher Education experience.

#### **University Centre Colchester can expect students to:**

- Work with commitment in their studies and to be pro-actively involved in shaping their experience of Higher Education;
- Take every opportunity to enhance their skills and understanding through practical and intellectual activities;
- Be open in disclosing individual learning requirements;
- Understand that their actions affect others, and to act accordingly;
- Be committed to providing constructive feedback on their learning experience;

- Involve themselves in the University Centre Colchester community.

**Staff can expect students to:**

- Be fully committed to their programme, its content and schedule;
- Reflect, evaluate and enquire in their thinking;
- Be effective managers of their time;
- Have a pro-active approach when seeking help;
- Conduct themselves and approach their work with honesty and courtesy;
- Attend classes and keep appointments.

**The University Centre Colchester community of students and staff can expect each other to:**

- Inspire, challenge and support one another intellectually;
- Work collaboratively in an open and positive manner;
- Be accountable for our conduct and actions;
- Treat one another responsibly, respectfully and courteously at all times, both in person and online;
- Be open to, and tolerant of, one another, regardless of background, identity or belief.

## 4. A Final Word

Thank you for reading this Charter. Many of the above points are not just part of a charter, they are drawn from everyday life: working and living in communities, making the most of professional opportunities as they arise, offering each other respect and understanding, and treating others as we would like to be treated ourselves.

What is on offer academically at University Centre Colchester prepares students for 'real-life' jobs. It draws on staff expertise that is current in relation to the employment market, and is underpinned by a collaborative spirit of support, discovery and attainment.

Welcome to University Centre Colchester

*Nils Franke*

Dean of Higher Education