

# University Centre Colchester (UCC)

## Staff Profile

Name:	<b>Kayleigh McLaughlin</b>
Job title/role:	<b>Assistant Area Head of ITE- <i>Teacher Training</i></b>
Subjects taught/administrative responsibilities:	<b>Initial Teacher Education</b> Cert Ed/ PGCE/ Learning and Skills Teacher Apprenticeship
Qualifications and Membership of Professional bodies:	BA (Hons) Early Childhood Education MA in Education
Experience in Education:	<p>My journey in education began after leaving secondary school, when I undertook a Level 3 qualification in Early Years at Colchester Institute. This foundational course marked the beginning of my career in early childhood education. I subsequently worked as a Room Leader in a private day nursery for several years, a role I found both rewarding and formative in shaping my passion for the sector.</p> <p>I progressed to study for a BA (Hons) in Early Years at Anglia Ruskin University. During this time, I gained further practical experience as a nanny for a family with three young children, enriching my understanding of child development in a home-based setting.</p> <p>Following the completion of my undergraduate degree, I pursued a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) at University Centre Colchester, with the aim of teaching in the post-16 education sector. Upon qualifying in 2015, I began lecturing at Colchester Institute, where I steadily advanced to the position of Area Head for the Early Years department. In this role, I led several key initiatives, including the successful establishment of the Early Years Centre in 2022 and the launch of the College's first T Level provision in 2023.</p> <p>In addition to my teaching and leadership responsibilities, I completed a Master's degree in Education in 2019. My dissertation focused on the integration of mobile phone use and technology within the Further Education (FE) classroom—an area of growing relevance in contemporary pedagogical practice.</p> <p>Although I remain deeply committed to the Early Years field, I embraced a new opportunity in 2024, becoming the Course Leader and Assistant Area Head for the Initial Teacher Education department at University Centre Colchester. Based on the same campus where I have worked for over a decade, this role enables me to contribute to teacher training and staff development, continuing my dedication to educational excellence and professional growth.</p>
Biography and personal interests: (50-75 words) NB: As part of your profile page, UCC may wish to record a short video interview with you for inclusion on the website.	<p>My journey in education began in Early Years, where I worked as a Room Leader before completing a BA (Hons), PGCE, and later an MA in Education. I've taught since 2015, leading the development of the Early Years Centre and launching T Levels at Colchester Institute. Now as Course Leader and Assistant Area Head for Initial Teacher Education, I'm passionate about supporting future educators and helping colleagues grow in their teaching practice.</p>

