

CTP Employer Brochure

Colchester Institute's close link with the Armed Forces

Armed Forces Covenant

Colchester Institute signed the Armed Forces Covenant in 2017, pledging to the Ministry of Defence that, amongst other things, that the College will support service men and women as they transition to new careers after leaving the military.



MoD Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award

The College was then honoured with a Silver Award from the MoD Employer Recognition Scheme. The scheme acknowledges employers who have provided outstanding support to the Armed Forces.



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

SILVER AWARD 2017
Proudly supporting those who serve.

Building Heroes

Building Heroes is a charity, set up in 2013, for the sole purpose of training military veterans in construction trades. The idea for Building Heroes was sparked by the lack of training for mature learners in the military.

The collaboration, which as a result has produced the Foundation Property Management course, provides skills training to Military Veterans and supports their progression into employment and further education in the building trades. The aim behind the programme is to prevent unemployment amongst those who have been in service for our country and provide them with the skills and knowledge to transition into a new career in construction.

Colchester Institute staff deliver the skills training at the College's Sheepen Road campus, which offers excellent modern facilities. The course gives learners a taster of different trades and helps them to establish a career pathway before they finish. The course has seen 100 learners graduate so far.

Colchester Institute is based in one of the UK's key Garrison towns. By offering the Foundation Property Maintenance course in this area, veterans can easily access the training.



Charity of the Year – The Royal British Legion

With 2018 being the WW1 centenary, Colchester Institute has chosen to name The Royal British Legion as its Charity of the Year. Staff and students have already organised and completed a Biathlon, which rose over £1,500 for the charity. The event involved students running the equivalent distance of Colchester to Dover, followed by a swim across the channel to Calais and finally a foot race that finished in the Belgian town of Ypres. The College will continue to fundraise and promote the charity throughout the academic year.

First World War Centenary Event/ Memorial Structure

Colchester Institute unveiled a very special structure on Wednesday 7th November to commemorate and mark 100 years since the end of the First World War.

The structure has been carefully created by many willing hands to create a lasting feature at the College's Colchester campus. The production of it has received significant contribution from students and staff at the College. Engineering and Manufacturing students have spent hours of work on the construction, learning key welding and fabrication skills whilst undertaking the project.

Metalsmiths from 8 Parachute Field Company Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers visited the College on multiple occasions to assist students with the creation of the structure. Some of them work on motor vehicle repairs on a daily bases and were able to apply their metalwork skills to this project.

Now that the event has taken place, the poppies will remain on the structure for a period of time before being removed and framed. These will be auctioned off to raise funds for the College's Charity of the Year, The Royal British Legion.



Phillip Moore – Facilities Manager at Colchester Institute

Phillip joined the Armed Forces from the age of 16 and worked in a variety of roles for 26 years before deciding to move into the public sector. From 2006, Phillip worked at the Military Corrective Training Centre in Colchester where he had many different job roles. These included administrative positions, running a detention centre, overseeing personnel being discharged from the Forces as well as those

remaining in the Forces after service. During his time at the Military Corrective Training Centre in Colchester, Phillip even went to Iraq to oversee a detention centre there.

Phillip saw the job of Facilities Manager at Colchester Institute and decided that it would be a good fit for him. To transition into his new career, he received support from CTP through training courses and communicating with a Resettlement Officer.

His experience in various roles in the Armed Forces has allowed Phillip to acquire transferable skills that help him daily in his current job. The ability to problem solve is one of the key skills that he feels helps him to succeed in his role as Facilities Manager. From his time in the Armed Forces, he learnt how to communicate with people of different levels and conduct himself in a professional manner, whilst also gaining many life skills that can be used in problematic situations.

A particular highlight of working at Colchester Institute, according to Phillip, is that they work closely the Forces. He was impressed with the Memorial Structure, which was created for the First World War Centenary and had involvement through the planning side of it. Within his role, he is still able to have a link with the Armed Forces and work closely with the Garrison.

Happy with his job now, Phillip said he would recommend working at Colchester Institute to anyone. Offering his advice to those in the Armed Forces who are looking to leave and pursue a new career, Phillip said that one key piece of advice would be to plan early. The resettlement courses take time and if you are relying gaining these skills for a particular job, it is important to start as early as you can.

Simon Mullan, Lecturer in Welding and Fabrication at Colchester Institute

Simon Mullan joined the Army as a Metalsmith and Fabricator/Welder for 3 years before adding Physical Trainer Instructor to his remit. In total, he served in the Army for a period of 9 years before deciding to move into Education.

His decision to leave the Forces was due to being away from home a lot, having spent time serving in Iraq. He started at Colchester Institute as an hourly paid tutor one evening a week, whilst he was still in the Forces, to see if teaching was the right choice for him. Simon already had previous teaching experience and would make lesson plans for his physical training role in the Forces.

Once leaving the Forces, Simon came to work at Colchester Institute as a Welding and Fabrication Lecturer and completed his teaching qualification in house. Enhanced learning credits gained from the Army assisted him with his teacher training. During his year's notice, he also used resettlement to do relevant courses that would help him succeed in his teaching role.

Many skills gained from the Forces helped Simon to excel in his job such as confidence, punctuality, communication skills and the ability to adapt to new situation. His biggest challenge during his transition into Education was time management as Simon was used to a very structured environment in the Forces. He adjusted and embraced this challenge and would now recommend working in this sector to those in the Armed Forces due to the difference in structure.

Still keeping a close link with the Army, Simon designed the metal poppies that formed part of the College's memorial structure commemorating the First World War Centenary. He was proud to work alongside Building Heroes, staff and students to create the parts. At the event on 7th November 2018, Simon was able to catch up with some of the soldiers who served in Iraq with him 17 years ago.

Having raised funds for The Royal British Legion personally through events such as Cardiff's Half Marathon, Simon is pleased that the College is supporting them this academic year.

Simon has already recommended teaching at the College to many of his friends in the Armed Forces and 3 of them have even come to work at the College.