

[M25 SpeedMeet](#)

Carly Ramirez-Herelle



Questions

- **Who are you, where are you based and what do you do?**

I am Carly Ramirez-Herelle and I am Head of Library and Academy Services at the University of Bedfordshire. I am responsible for teams across three university sites who deliver frontline support to students, staff and visitors.

- **What do you most enjoy about your job?**

My job is multi-faceted and completely variable day to day! I think the most favoured aspect of my role is the relationships myself and my team build with students and how much this can influence their experience at university. I like to challenge students' perceptions of what a library is and actively demonstrate it can be the hub of (nearly) all things! It is very important to me that students believe they have a place to belong, that they can call their own and rely on when it matters the most. The library and my team offer this support, and I am extremely proud and honoured to have the opportunity to be part of students' journeys in this way.

- **What motivates you in your work?**

The university supports students who perhaps would not have had the opportunity to access HE. I see our students balancing the demands of higher education with family life and caring responsibilities, employment, conversing in English which may be a second or even third language, and returning to education in mature life with the goal of changing careers. I am motivated by seeing students negotiate barriers - and succeed! I see the challenges our students face with such courage and enthusiasm. It is completely inspirational and I am motivated to support them to succeed, every day!

- **How can/has the M25 Consortium supported you in your career?**

The M25 Consortium has provided invaluable networking opportunities and access to shared expertise. Engaging with peers across the region has helped me stay informed about best practices and inspired ideas that I have adapted within the context of my own institution.

In summer 2025, I co-delivered a Lightning Talk at an M25 event with my colleague, Dr Steve Briggs. Opportunities provided by the Consortium have facilitated collaboration with experienced practitioners and enhanced my professional outputs.

- **What would it surprise people to know about you?**

It might surprise people to know that I wanted to be a journalist. I began very young, presenting a few episodes on a children's TV programme in the early 90s. This really whet my appetite for bringing information to an audience. I settled on the prospect of field reporting, and embraced the pressure, exposure and danger that I knew came with the role, which was overshadowed by an intrinsic belief that people should have unfiltered access to information. Albeit a little less volatile an industry, perhaps it is not completely surprising that I should end up in a library!

- **Complete the sentence: If I wasn't working in a library I would be..... because**

Given my last answer, if I wasn't working in a library I (hope) I would have fulfilled my initial ambition, because equitable access to information has always been a deep-rooted belief of mine. Who knows – we could have been speed meeting in an alternative context!