



**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

**Press Release  
21 November 2013**

## **Leeds universities unite to win Teach First's annual residential training event for the city**

**Leeds Metropolitan University** and the **University of Leeds** have successfully bid to bring one of Teach First's residential training events worth £5.5m to the city in 2014 and 2015.

Leeds' two largest universities worked together to secure the University-based element of **Teach First's Summer Institute**, a huge event which, in previous years, has taken place at the University of Warwick. Partners **First Direct Arena**, and accommodation providers **Unite**, **Downing** and **Grey Star**, will provide additional venue space and bedrooms for the delegates' 28,000 bed nights.

Teams from **Well Met Conferencing** at Leeds Metropolitan University and **MEETINLEEDS** at the University of Leeds spent months in talks with Teach First's congress consultants, **vfi 360**, who explored over 45 different cities on behalf of Teach First, Leeds winning the bid based on its' scope for development and ease of access.

It is the first time the universities have collaborated so closely on an event, and it is hoped that this will provide a model for attracting further large-scale events in the future.

From 19 July to 02 August, over 3,000 delegates will attend the final two weeks of Teach First's Summer Institute, where they will be provided with seminars, tutorials and social activities to prepare them for teaching in schools in England and Wales from September.

Vice Chancellor of Leeds Metropolitan University, **Professor Susan Price** says:

"We are incredibly proud to be part of this collaborative project and to have secured an event of such high profile and stature. It is not only great for Leeds – which now can prove that it has the capability and the muscle to host congress business of this kind – it also demonstrates that when we combine forces, Leeds Metropolitan University and the University of Leeds are a formidable partnership."

Vice Chancellor of the University of Leeds, **Sir Alan Langlands**, says:

"This closely-knit collaboration between ourselves and Leeds Metropolitan University has been absolutely crucial to the success of this bid. We have learnt that together we can achieve great things for

Leeds, as neither partner would have been able to secure this event without the help of the other. The Teach First Summer Institute will be a vibrant addition to the city's conference calendar."

**Reuben Moore**, Teach First's Director of Leadership said:

"There is no doubt that the Summer Institute is a demanding time for Teach First's participants, but it is just as enjoyable and an excellent opportunity to meet others and build on the UK's movement to address educational disadvantage

"As a result, the two weeks that participants will spend at both Leeds University and Leeds Metropolitan University as part of our annual Summer Institute are some of the most significant in their development as teachers and leaders.

"As we continue to recruit more participants and ensure that all of them are able to make a difference to young people, Leeds Universities provide the perfect setting both in terms of the capacity that the universities have, and for their location in the heart of the city – a fact that allows us to work closely with those in the community, including local businesses and schools.

"We are therefore delighted to be hosted by the Leeds Universities and look forward to working with them in the future in order to prepare our participants as they help to achieve our vision."

**Lurene Joseph**, Chief Executive at Leeds and Partners, said:

"Teach First's decision to come to Leeds is great news for the universities and the wider Leeds economy. More than 3,000 people visiting the city will be a tremendous boost to our retail, cultural and food and drink sectors.

"We are delighted to be working with Leeds Metropolitan University and the University of Leeds to drive added value in the tourism marketplace. This will be supported by forging further links with VisitEngland and VisitBritain to bring forward key campaigns to position Leeds as one of the top UK conference destinations."

**For further media information please contact Jane Verity at Bonner & Hindley on 07854 759480 or email [jane@bonnerandhindley.co.uk](mailto:jane@bonnerandhindley.co.uk)**

- Ends -

**Notes to Editors:**

## **About Well Met Conferencing at Leeds Metropolitan University**

- Well Met Conferencing is the conference office for Leeds Metropolitan University.
- Leeds Metropolitan University is the first University to achieve the Gold Accredited in Meetings status awarded by the Meetings Industry Association.
- Centrally located, Leeds is just two hours 20 minutes from London by train, and just one hour on the new BA flights from Heathrow to Leeds Bradford Airport.
- 2013 sees the opening of two new landmarks for Leeds – new retail and leisure destination, Trinity, and the 13,500 capacity Leeds Arena.
- Leeds Metropolitan University accommodation Carnegie Village was awarded 3\* by the AA
- At the M&IT awards 2012 and 2013 Well Met was a finalist for the 'Best Academic Venue' category
- At the 2013 Leeds Hotels & Venues Association Awards Well Met Conferencing was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place for 'Exceptional Customer Service'.
- Leeds Metropolitan University venue The Rose Bowl was awarded 'Best New Business Venue' in 2010 at the Yorkshire Business Insider Awards.
- Leeds Metropolitan University has more than 27,000 students and around 3,000 staff.
- The Vice Chancellor of Leeds Metropolitan University is Professor Susan Price, the Chancellor is Sir Bob Murray CBE and the Chair of the Board is Phil White CBE.
- Leeds Metropolitan's heritage can be traced back to the founding of the Mechanics Institute in Leeds in 1824.
- In 2013 Leeds Metropolitan University became the third university in the UK to be awarded the Customer Service Excellence standard.
- In 2013 Leeds Metropolitan University achieved the 'Investors in People' Bronze Award confirming the University's commitment to customer delivery and service.

## **About University of Leeds**

The University of Leeds, under its brand MEETINLEEDS, has a long history of hosting conferences in high quality facilities close to the heart of Leeds, and backed by a string of awards and accreditations including: Customer First for service, a VisitEngland, and the highest possible level of accreditation under the National Accessible Scheme.

The University of Leeds is one of the largest higher education institutions in the UK and a member of the Russell Group of research-intensive universities.

The 2008 Research Assessment Exercise showed the University of Leeds to be the UK's eighth biggest research powerhouse and the University's vision is to secure a place among the world's leading universities by 2015. [www.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.leeds.ac.uk)

## **About Teach First**

Teach First is a charity with the vision that no child's educational success is limited by their socio-economic background. Teach First is working towards achieving its vision by enabling its participants and ambassadors in the classroom to raise the achievement, aspiration, and access to opportunity of children from low socio-economic backgrounds, whilst developing a network of leaders with a life-long commitment to ending inequality in education from both inside and outside the classroom.

Teach First currently operates in Wales and nine regions across England: London, West Midlands, East Midlands, Yorkshire the Humber, North West and the North East, South East, South Coast and the South West.

Trainees commit to a minimum of two years at their partner school, where they teach an Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) timetable; and nearly three quarters choose to stay for at least a third year. Their 13 month Initial Teacher Training starts with the unique six-week Summer Institute which provides trainees with intensive preparation for teaching in their school. Trainees then complete both their PGCE training year and their first year as an NQT in their school.

#### **About vfi 360**

vfi 360 is a professional congress and events consultancy business working with clients on their local and international events programmes. The company provides venue finding services, programme management, and housing and delegate registration. <http://www.vfi360.com/>