

**From:** [ ]@teachfirst.org.uk]  
**Sent:** 06 June 2017 17:51  
**To:** Donald Gillies <Donald.Gillies@uws.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Study visit

Dear Donald,

Thanks for your swift response. I can appreciate that it may be challenging to host a visit at such a busy time but wondered if you had time to discuss briefly on the phone about your approaches. As I mentioned we are keen to learn from best practice.

You may have also seen some of the media reports over the weekend about potential for Teach First in Scotland, and what that may mean for universities. I wanted to re-assure you that much of the reporting is incorrect (and also not something we instigated). In both England and Wales universities are fundamental to the work we do – we work very closely with eight university ITE departments to develop a rigorous PGDE as part of the two year training which universities co-deliver. The timing of my email to you and that coverage was definitely unexpected – as below I'm very keen to learn more about your provision.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes  
[ ]

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**From:** Donald Gillies [<mailto:Donald.Gillies@uws.ac.uk>]  
**Sent:** 02 June 2017 08:45  
**To:** [ ]@teachfirst.org.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Study visit

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your email. I am unable to assist you in your request.

Kind regards

Donald Gillies

Professor Donald Gillies  
Dean of the School of Education  
University of the West of Scotland (Ayr Campus)  
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**From:** [ ]@teachfirst.org.uk]  
**Sent:** 01 June 2017 17:22  
**To:** Donald Gillies <Donald.Gillies@uws.ac.uk>  
**Cc:** [ ]  
**Subject:** Study visit

Dear Professor Gillies,

I write to introduce myself and express my interest in meeting with you to learn more about University of the West of Scotland's curriculum for initial teacher education. I am the Director of Leadership at Teach First. We are best known for our Leadership Development Programme, through which we recruit high-achieving graduates to the teaching profession and support them in working toward a PGCE as they gain classroom experience.

Over the course of the last year, we have closely examined our academic provision to participants, making improvements to integrate best practice and provide an even deeper and more developmental programme that covers the two years of development as a teacher, leading to a PGDE worth 120 Master Level credits (per the QAA framework for England).

I believe that we need to learn from the best around the world. Scotland has a long-standing reputation for academic rigour and innovation in its initial teacher education, and I am keen to learn more about your provision.

UWS's focus on inclusivity and economic transformation aligns perfectly with our mission to end educational inequality and our current campaign around social mobility. We are interested in UWS's important regional role, particularly in Paisley, which is located in a Challenge Authority and faces the types of deprivation and attainment issues that we work to combat in England and Wales.

If you would be amenable, I would very much like to visit your campus alongside my colleague [ ] to have a discussion and see your curriculum in practice. Do you have any availability to host such a visit this summer? I can be reached at this email address, or through my PA, at [ ]@teachfirst.org.uk.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,  
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