



Students lead the way in e-democracy

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[摘要] March 20, 2007. Northumbria is one of the first universities in the UK to use an online voting and counting system for their annual Students' Union Executive elections.
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Northumbria is one of the first universities in the UK to use an online voting and counting system for their annual Students' Union Executive elections. The new process will eliminate fraudulent voting and spoiled papers, speed up the counting of votes, and reduce the risk of miscounts. It also increases accessibility for voting to the many students who study Part time, or to those that are based at one of the satellite campuses. The number of students voting during elections has risen by 400% in the last two years. It is hoped that bringing the process bang up to date and allowing online voting, even more students will take part. E-voting means students can vote wherever they are – be it from the comfort of their bedroom, or across the other side of the world and whenever morning, noon or night. The counting of ballots – a process which can normally take around 10 hours in a manual count – will now be completed in 10 seconds.

On the count night, Thursday 22nd March, screens erected in Northumbria Students' Union will present the results, with eye-catching, professional looking visuals and live entertainment throughout the evening. The venue will be packed with candidates and supporters from 7pm onwards.

Benjamin Ashcroft, Chair of the Students' Union Elections Committee, commented, "The new E-Voting system is a much better way to vote, it means students can vote anytime, anywhere, rather than having to visit a ballot station during polling times, students can even vote from Hong Kong."

He added: "The Students' Union has worked hard to make it more efficient, environmentally friendly and easier to vote. Nowadays students spend more time on computers than on campus and we see online voting as the future of democracy."

Online polling opens at 9 am on Tuesday 20th March and closes at 5pm on Thursday 22nd March. Students will be voting for nominated candidates who will go on to make up the 2007

2008 Students' Union Executive Committee. The Committee will be made up of four full time, paid positions, consisting of President and three Vice Presidents and seven voluntary positions, which include Chair of Entertainments and Student Newspaper Editor.

