



# Canterbury Christ Church University

Bespoke, interactive Portal transforms Canterbury Christ Church University. Ballard Chalmers develops state-of-the-art, expandable, highly configurable, interactive, exciting and innovative portals for Canterbury Christ Church University.

## Business Challenge

With such a large number of students enrolling each academic year, Canterbury Christ Church University recognised that it needed to upgrade its existing student portal site and replace its outmoded and semi-manual method of issuing and allocating computer-based services to students, staff and other people (Associates).

The University's existing student portal was a largely static site and lacked any dynamic features or an effective way to personalise communication with individual students. The University needed the expandable, highly configurable, interactive, exciting and innovative portals to transform the way anonymous users, enquirers, applicants, enrolled students and Alumni interact with the University's website and provide an important on-line environment with content that changes as the person's relationship with the University grows.

## Solution

Ballard Chalmers developed Student.NET - an interactive portal that provides new and existing students with access to social networking sites and allows them to undertake essential administrative tasks online, such as re-enrolment, change of address and study fee payments. Student.NET is based on the latest SharePoint technology to ensure acceptance by students used to accessing the latest social networking sites, and allows students to customise their home pages to their own requirements and preferences.

As with all large organisations, information about each person is held in a variety of databases residing on various platforms. Canterbury Christ Church University asked Ballard Chalmers to develop a Computer Management interface (CMI) to create a single view of each student, staff member or associate and enable the management of and provision of electronic services such as email accounts and temporary or permanent access to Student.NET.

The University regards Ballard Chalmers as one of its major IT partners and is already evaluating several future projects to further improve the services that it makes available to potential, existing and past students, staff and associates. Canterbury Christ Church University is leading the way on student portals. Its close relationship with Ballard Chalmers has resulted in state-of-the-art portals that are expandable, highly configurable, interactive, exciting and innovative.

*"Ballard Chalmers' consultancy and Microsoft .Net development expertise has been instrumental in the redevelopment of the Canterbury Student.NET portal. The solutions will greatly enhance collaborative development between universities and provide online provision for many business processes, including targeted communications. We look forward to working in partnership with Ballard Chalmers as we go live and continue to enhance and develop these applications."*

Elaine Hopkins, Information Systems Development Manager,  
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