How to understand metamodules (parent modules) - if you teach modules with the same content

This page is relevant to all versions of Moodle.

Moodle Help & Support

How to understand metamodules - if you teach modules (courses) with the same content

Metamodules (umbrella or parent modules)

Do you teach any modules (courses) where some or all of the content is shared? Would you like to use the same resources and activities in another module (course)?

If the content is used in more than one module (course) it’s possible to share the content using an umbrella or “metamodule” in Moodle for the shared content. The separate modules (courses) also exist but may only be used to feed students enrolments from SATURN and are invisible to students who only see the “parent” module (course).

Examples include:

- Modules (courses) with different credit values but the same content
- Modules (courses) taught in different semesters but with the same content
- Modules (courses) taught at Level 3 and level 4 where both sets of students study the same content
- Modules (courses) with the same module (course) code and content on separate international campuses but taught together

Metamodules can also be set up as umbrella modules (courses) for numbers of students, such as all students in Year 1, all students on a particular MSc programme. They can be linked to core modules (courses) to feed enrolment.

Example:

Advanced Power Conversion (H64AP2 UK SPR) (H64APC UK SPR) (17-18)

Enrolment on metamodules / parent modules (courses)

Students are passed through to the metamodule with a student role.

Staff are passed through to the metamodule but lose their roles, i.e. cannot see the module. This is because the overwhelming majority of users wanted students to be passed through but not staff.

Usually staff do not have the same roles in metamodules as they do in the modules (courses) linked to them, but they are passed through to make it easier for the editing teacher to give them a role if they need one.

How to give staff a role in the metamodule:

- Go into the Participants screen for the module (course). (On the Hamburger menu)
- Click the pencil icon under the Roles column on the same row as their name
- Click the down arrow, and choose a role (e.g. Observer or editing teacher)
Click the floppy disk icon to save the changes.

Status of parent or metamodules - caveats with regard to SATURN (Same applies to Campus Solutions)

The child modules (courses) are SATURN modules and have all the usual links - to Reading Lists, Engage, Rogo etc.

The parent modules (courses) - although they involve teaching of content listed in SATURN - are not themselves modules (courses) linked to SATURN (NON SATURN module status), and will not synchronise with other systems in the way that SATURN modules (courses) do. So to provide a Reading list or Echo link, you will need to add a link manually.

If you would like to use all of these linked systems then you can make the child modules (courses) visible for these purposes, while still keeping most of the content in the parent. In this case - where both are visible - it can be a good idea to make the connections explicit in the content of the module (course) and provide direct links in between.

Advice where not to use metamodules

Cases where you would NOT use metamodules but might duplicate (import) the content from one module (course) to another might be where, e.g.,

- You are providing content for a colleague (e.g., on another campus) which they will then edit, but the students are not studying together.
- You wish to move your content from one year (e.g., 18-19) to another (e.g. 19-20) as a starting point
- You wish to use the content of one, e.g., undergraduate, module (course) to start you off developing a similar, e.g., postgraduate, module (course).

Metamodule Example 1
Metamodule Example 2

**Metamodule ZZ3000 and ZZ3001**

Introduction to Subtitling

Contains content for both child modules, as taught together

VISIBLE TO STUDENTS on ZZ3000 & ZZ3001

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**Module ZZ3000**

Introduction to Subtitling

(10 credit version)

No extra content

INVISIBLE TO STUDENTS

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Takes enrolment from SATURN

**Module ZZ3001**

Introduction to Subtitling

(20 credit version)

Extra content and assignments for 20-credit students

VISIBLE TO STUDENTS on ZZ3001

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Takes enrolment from SATURN
Year 1 Subtitling Students
Contains content such as news and events and all-School info for all students studying subtitling modules in year 1
VISIBLE TO STUDENTS on all 4 linked modules

Module ZZ3002
Introduction to Subtitling
Module content
VISIBLE TO STUDENTS on ZZ3002

Module ZZ3003
Advanced Subtitling
Module content
VISIBLE TO STUDENTS on ZZ3003

Module ZZ3004
Subtitling TV
Module content
VISIBLE TO STUDENTS on ZZ3004

Module ZZ3005
Subtitling Films
Module content
VISIBLE TO STUDENTS on ZZ3005

Takes enrolment from all these four
Take enrolment from SATURN