Setting up Course Structures in ProMonitor





Version 3 – January 2013

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1 Introduction

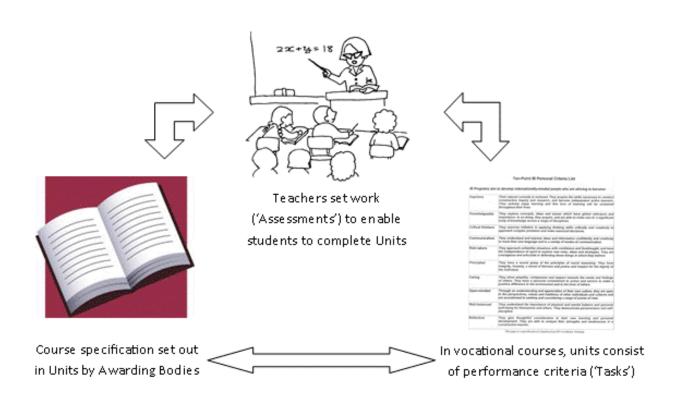
This document sets out some of the basic techniques required to set up course structures for a variety of different qualifications.

The building blocks of courses on the ProMonitor system are:

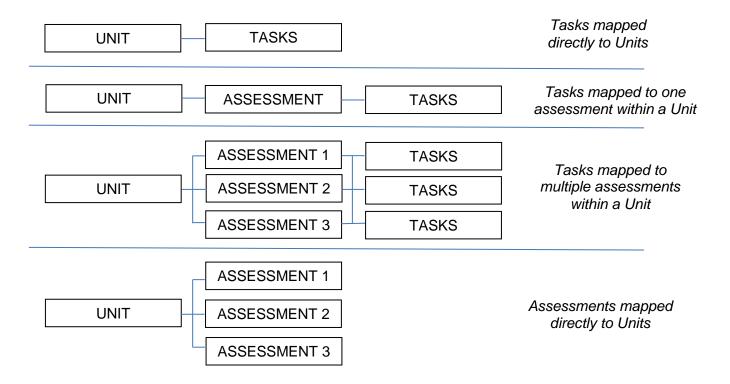
UNITS – the most basic building blocks of a course. The number of units normally determines the 'size' of the qualification, while their level determines its difficulty. Units are a necessary component of any course which is set up on ProMonitor - a course cannot exist on the system without at least one unit.

ASSESSMENTS – work which teachers set for students to complete, in order to enable them to complete units. Hence within ProMonitor, assessments exist within a unit. You do however have the choice of whether or not to track the actual completion of assessments within a unit.

TASKS – ProMonitor's name for the individual criteria (sometimes known as 'Performance Critieria' or 'Performance Indicators') which make up most 'portfolio-based' courses. Tasks also exist within a unit and may be attached to one or more assessments.



Apart from the fact that a course must have one or more units, ProMonitor allows much flexibility in the way that units, assessments and tasks are configured, reflecting the diversity of courses and approaches which exist within colleges. For example, courses may be set up in any of the following ways:



These options offer alternatives for different course types – for example:

- The model with multiple tasks (performance criteria) within a unit, mapped across several assessments (which collectively ensure the unit is covered) is common within the new QCF vocational qualifications (Extended Diploma etc), especially those with grades awarded (Pass/Merit/Distinction) at unit and overall level.
- Mapping tasks directly to units may suit NVQ, Foundational Learning and other 'criteria-focused' courses, especially those which are simply graded Pass/Fail. However in these cases it's also possible to track assessments as per above.
- Assessments mapped to units is the preferred model for AS/A2 and other 'exam-based' courses,
 where teacher assessment is primarily designed to give students opportunities to practice skills which
 will be assessed in an external examination.
- Other course types such as HE courses, Functional Skills etc can fit into one of the above structures:

Functional Skills may require a relatively simple markbook where teachers record assessment marks (similar to an AS/A2 level markbook).

Foundation/Honours Degrees again focus on assessments, but scores can be weighted to give a weighted average score for each module, which are in turn averaged to give the grade for the year.

2 Instructions for all Course Types – Courses and Student Groups

In ProMonitor, the structure of a qualification (i.e. the units with their assessments and/or tasks) is always set up against a **Course**, and the Course is not specific to any particular group of student or any academic year. This means that a structure only needs to be set up once, and that same structure can then be used for different groups of students following a qualification within an academic year or in future academic years. The Course contains a central 'pool' of units, assessments and tasks which can then be allocated appropriately to different groups of students either in the current academic year or future years.

For example in a vocational programme such as an Extended Diploma or NVQ, different groups of students will take the same mandatory units, but may follow a different combination of optional units, enabling them to specialise in different pathways:

COURSE:

Level 2 NVQ in Business & Administration

STUDENT GROUPS:

Level 2 NVQ in Business & Administration – Route 1

Common Units: 1,2,3,4 Optional Units: 30,31,32,34 Level 2 NVQ in Business & Administration – Route 2

Common Units: 1,2,3,4 Optional Units: 24,25,26,28 Level 2 NVQ in Business & Administration – Route 3

Common Units: 1,2,3,4 Optional Units: 17,18,19,20

With AS/A2 courses, student groups can draw down a list of assessments from the central pool which exists within a unit – some assessments may be common to all groups, others may be specific to just some groups

COURSE:

AS History

STUDENT GROUPS:

Group A

Within Unit 1: Assessments 1/1, 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 1/5, 1/6, 1/7, 1/8 Group B

Within Unit 1: Assessments 1/1, 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 1/7, 1/8, 1/9, 1/10 Group C

Within Unit 1: Assessments 1/1, 1/2, 1/3, 1/6, 1/7, 1/8, 1/9, 1/11, 1/12

Hence, we always start with setting up the overall course structure and then allocate the relevant units and/or assessments to specific student group(s). Changes to this allocation can be applied down to the individual student level and can be made at any time during the course. For example in the case of AS/A2, one teacher might create a new assessment for their group, which then becomes available for colleagues to use with other groups. A structure must be allocated to each group individually, even if all the groups are following the same structure.

2.1 Accessing the Course Structure

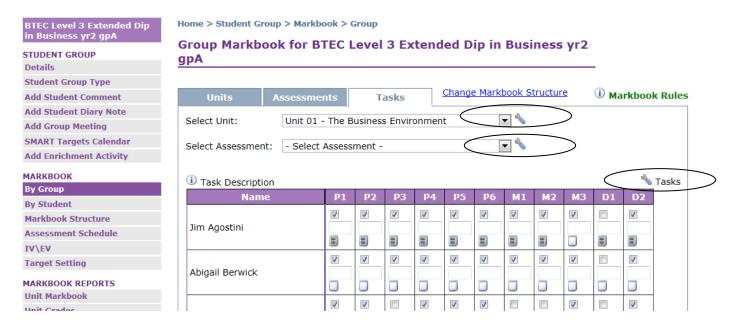
When using the markbook, you will access a 'Student Group' i.e. a specific group of students taking a qualification in an given academic year. In order to actually set up and/or maintain the course structure which is required before the markbook can be used, you need to go from the specific student group into the 'Course' (i.e. the qualification itself) which lies behind the group.

The move from Student Group to Course can be made in several ways:

• By clicking on the link to 'Course' near the top of the main Student Group page:



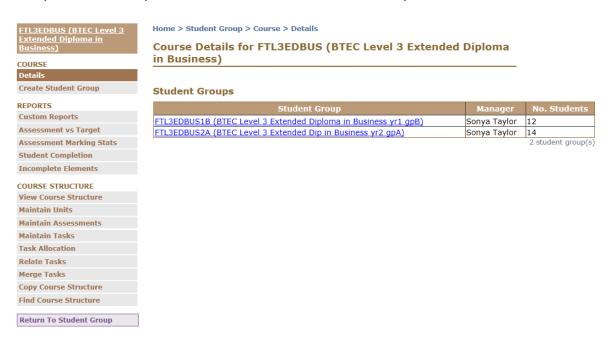
• From within the markbook itself, wherever a 'spanner' icon is seen:



• From the **Markbook Structure** screen (this screen provides a link between the student group and the course which sits behind, as it shows the course structure and how it is allocated to the group):



In any of these cases, you will then enter the **Course** area of the system with a brown colour scheme:



The **Course Structure** sub-menu can then be used to maintain the markbook:



Any Units, Assessments or Tasks set up will now automatically be allocated to the Student Group from which you have just moved to the Course screens, but not to other Student Groups following the same Course.

The next sections give a variety of examples for different types of courses.

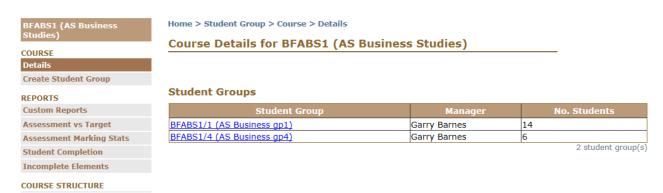
3 Example 1 – an AS/A2 Course, using Units and Assessments

3.1 Setting up the Qualification Structure

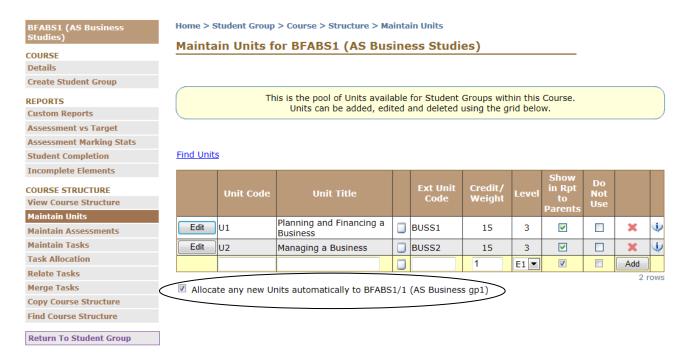
If you wish you can set up an AS/A2 as a single 4 or 6 unit qualification (most will be 4), although most colleges will probably want to treat AS and A2 as two separate qualifications consisting of 2 (or 3) units each.

For the purposes of this document we are assuming that your courses and student groups following those courses have already been defined, most likely via an import from your MIS system. For further information on this process please see the ProMonitor Administrator User Guide or contact your MIS manager.

See section 2.1 for instructions on how to locate the Course screen below. Here we see separate student groups, both following the same AS Business Studies course:

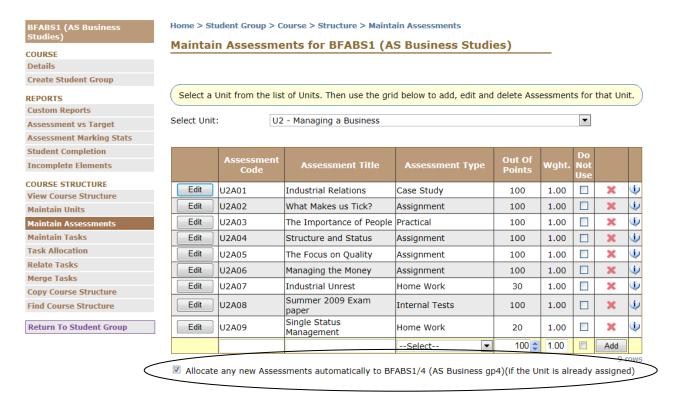


Under Maintain Units you can easily add, edit or delete units:

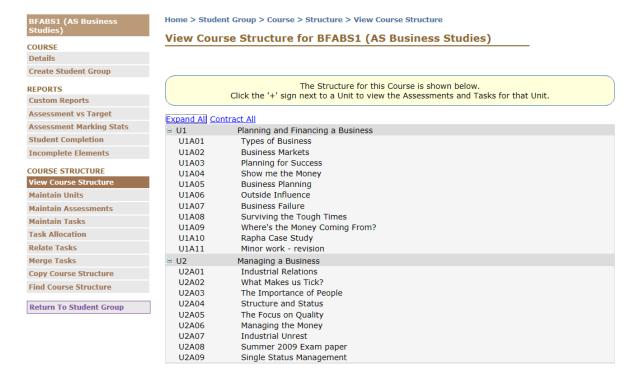


Note that the box circled will be ticked by default, meaning that these units will be allocated to group 1.

Having set up your units you can now use **Maintain Assessments** to add in marked work under any one of those units. First select the relevant unit and then add the assessment(s):



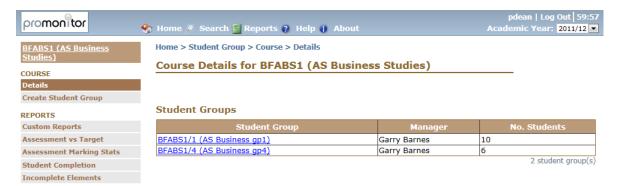
When this structure is complete you can check it with View Course Structure:



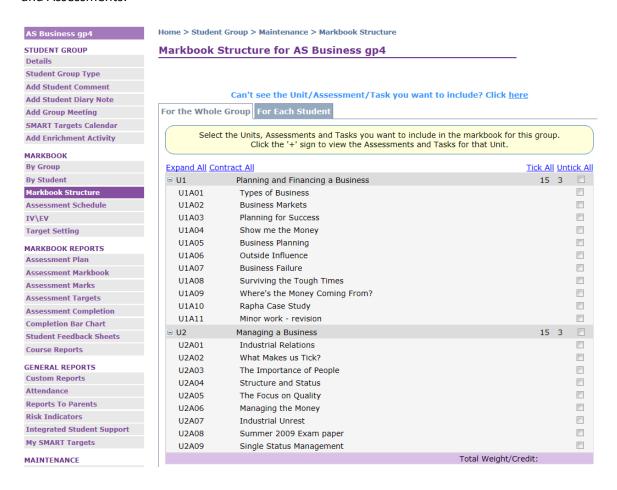
Note that these Units and Assessments have been automatically allocated to AS Business Studies group 1. This work is now available to be allocated as required to other groups following the same course – this is dealt with in the next section.

3.2 Allocating Work to Other Student Groups:

We may now wish to allocate the Units and Assessments to another group of AS Business Studies students. On the **Details** page we can see all the groups listed within the course:



We can the click on e.g. Group 4, go to **Markbook Structure** and click **Expand All** to show the available Units and Assessments:



Tick the Units and Assessments required for Group 4, click Save and you are ready to record marks.

A key benefit of this method is that a different selection of work may be allocated to different groups of students (Student Groups) following the same qualification (Course).

4 Example 2 – QCF Vocational Quals (Awards, Certs, Dips, Ext Dips etc)

In the case of portfolio-assessed vocational qualifications such as the new QCF level 3 Nationals, students achieve units at a certain grade by completing criteria ('Tasks' in ProMonitor). Hence you will certainly want to set up tasks within each unit. For example, if we consider one awarding body's specification for Unit 1 of their L3 Diplomas in Business, we can see the criteria which must be met to achieve the various grades:

To achieve a pass grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:	To achieve a merit grade the evidence must show that, in addition to the pass criteria, the learner is able to:	To achieve a distinction grade the evidence must show that in addition to the pass and merit criteria, the learner is able to:
P1 describe the type of business, purpose and ownership of two contrasting businesses		D1 evaluate the influence different stakeholders exert in one organisation
P2 describe the different stakeholders who influence the purpose of two contrasting businesses	M1 explain the points of view of different stakeholders seeking to influence the aims and objectives of two contrasting organisations	
P3 describe how two businesses are organised		
P4 explain how their style of organisation helps them to fulfil their purposes		
P5 describe the influence of two contrasting economic environments on business activities within a selected organisation	M2 compare the challenges to selected business activities within a selected organisation, in two different economic environments	
P6 describe how political, legal and social factors are impacting upon the business activities of the selected organisations and their stakeholders.	M3 analyse how political, legal and social factors have impacted on the two contrasting organisations.	D2 evaluate how future changes in economic political, legal and social factors, may impact on the strategy of a specified organisation.

You do however have the choice as to whether you set up and track assessments, the design and delivery of which is nearly always decided at each individual college. Assessments in this case only exist to give students opportunities to cover and achieve Tasks. Some centres place a strong emphasis on the importance of assessments, some may wish to record assessments only as a means to monitor hand-out or hand-in dates, or you may choose to ignore the assessment markbook altogether and concentrate on units and tasks.

With many vocational programmes it is common for centres to offer variations within a single qualification, where different groups of students are able to specialise in alternative routes within the same qualification. For example, students following an Extended Diploma in Business will complete 40 credits worth of mandatory units but may also specialize in pathways relating to a range of business functions such as accounting, marketing or human resources.

ProMonitor caters for this by enabling all the units (common and optional) to be set up against the course itself, but different units to be allocated to specific student groups (or even specific students) according to the route which they are following. Section 2 covers this in more detail and includes instructions on locating courses.

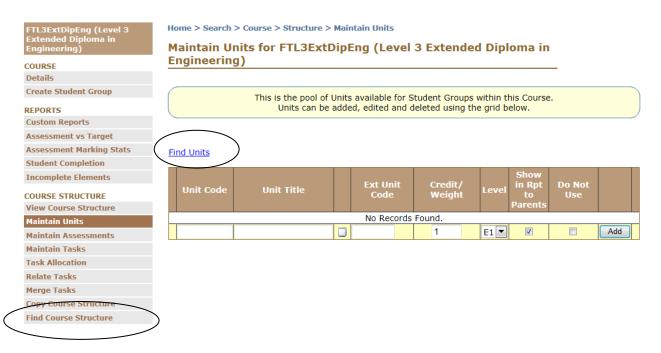
The example below uses a graded L3 Vocational Qualification, but the principles are equally appropriate for all graded L1, 2 or 3 vocational programmes.

4.1 Adding and Maintaining Units

4.1.1 Downloading Units from the OFQUAL Register

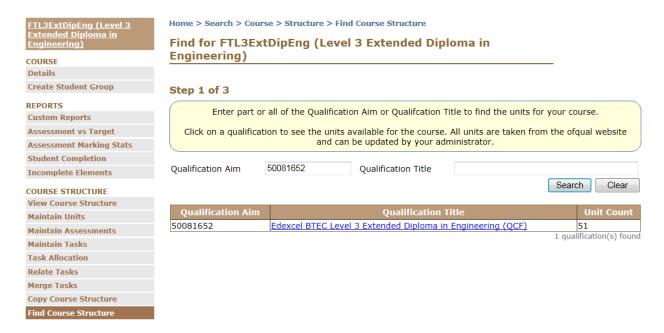
Since autumn 2012 it has been possible to download unit titles, codes, credit/weighting and levels from online information held by OFQUAL on the *Register of Regulated Qualifications*. For this to work, the information needs to have first been imported centrally into ProMonitor by your system administrator (this process is beyond the remit of this document and will probably already have been done – your administrator can contact Compass if they need further information on how to do this).

Downloaded Units can be searched by clicking either on the **Find Units** link or the page in the left menu named **Find Course Structure**:

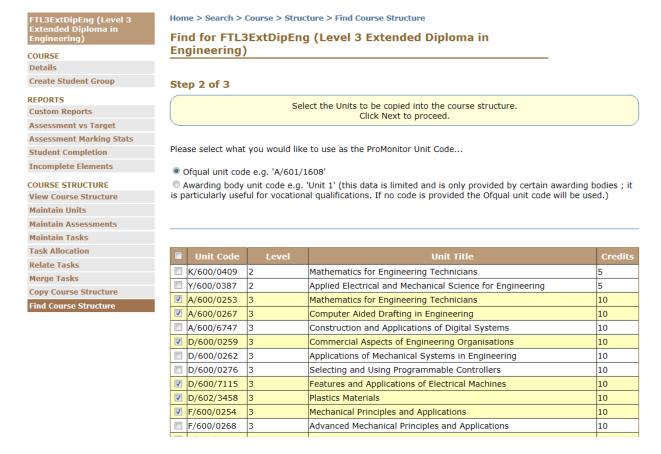


A simple internal wizard will now allow you to locate and attach relevant units for use with the markbook for this course.

The first page of the wizard allows a search either by Qualification Aim code or by a text search by Qual Title:



Having located the correct qualification, click on the Qualification Title to go to the next page in the process where required units can be selected, using the OFQUAL unit code or the shorter 'awarding body' name:



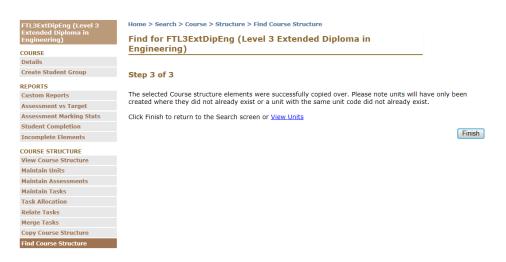
You can select your correct credit value of units at this point (e.g. 180 credits worth for an Extended Diploma), or alternatively you can download a much longer list of units, and only allocate the units needed later in the process (see section 4.4). A longer list is preferable where groups or individual students follow different units.

Having selected the relevant units, click **Next**:

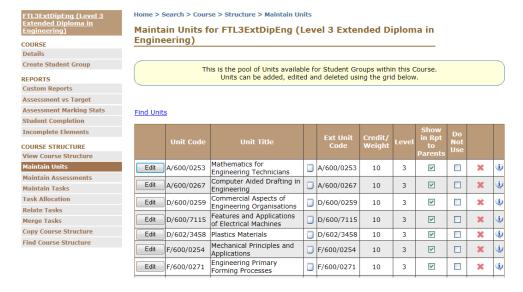
	R/600/0274	3	Welding Technology	10
V	R/600/0341	3	Electrical Technology	10
V	R/602/1951	3	Vehicle Engine Management Systems	10
	T/600/0185	3	Principles and Applications of Thermodynamics	10
V	T/600/0249	3	Health and Safety in the Engineering Workplace	10
	T/600/0252	3	Engineering Project	20
	T/600/0266	3	Engineering Drawing for Technicians	10
	Y/600/0258	3	Engineering Design	10
	Y/600/0261	3	Further Mechanical Principles and Applications	10
	Y/600/0342	3	Electrical Installation	10
	Y/600/0373	3	Electronic Measurement and Testing	10
	Y/602/3457	3	Basic Polymer Technology	10
	Y/602/3460	3	Polymer Process Engineering	10
			51 un	its(s) found

<< Back Next >>

You'll then see a confirmation message and a link back to the unit list:



Clicking on View Units will take you back to the list as seen on the Maintain Units page:



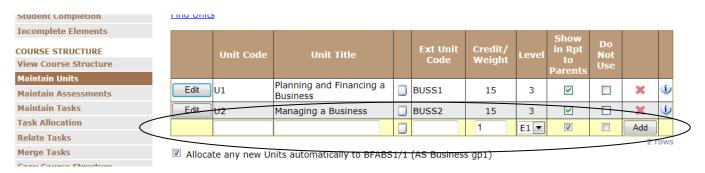
Note that the unit Credit/Weightings and Level have been correctly imported from the OFQUAL data

4.1.2 Setting up Units Manually

You may set up Unit information manually if:

- You don't want to use the process in section 4.1.1
- The information doesn't exist in the OFQUAL database
- In the case of courses like AS/A2, it's easier just to set the 2 or 3 units up manually

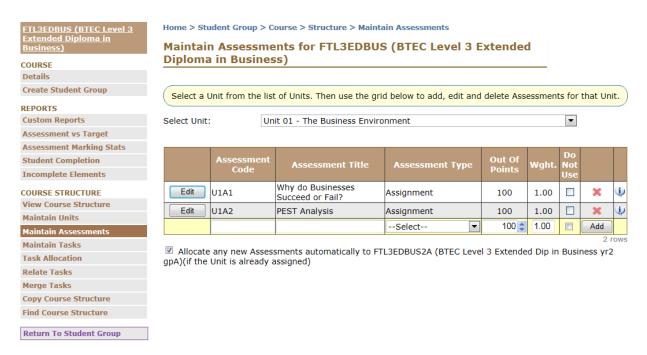
It's then a simple case of using the 'Add' row to record the unit information:



In the above image you can see that the values for Credit/Weighting and Level have defaulted to '1' and 'E1' respectively. With vocational qualifications, it's vital that you record the correct values or the markbook won't work properly.

4.2 Adding and Maintaining Assessments

This stage is optional, if you wish to show which assessments are used to cover certain tasks within a unit. First select the relevant unit and then add the assessment(s):

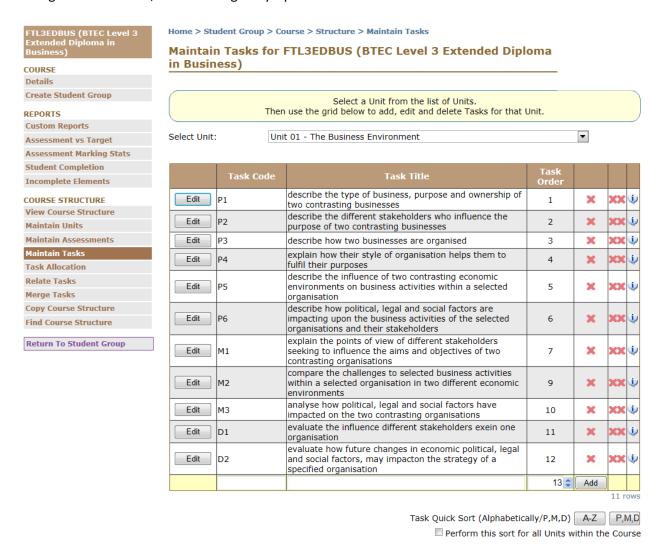


With a vocational course like this Extended Diploma, the default values for 'Out Of Points' and 'Wght' can be left as 100 and 1.00 respectively – they will not be used if using markbook rules to create unit and overall grading projections and will effectively be ignored by the markbook.

4.3 Adding and Maintaining Tasks (Performance Criteria)

4.3.1 Creating Tasks

Using Maintain Tasks, the Awarding Body's performance criteria can next be recorded for the relevant unit:

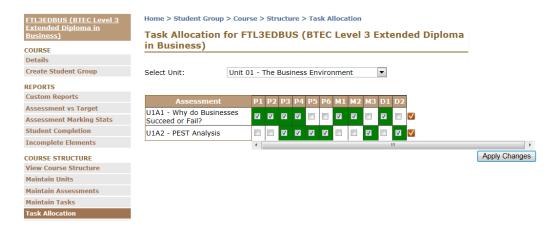


At the time of writing, no reliable central electronic source exists which holds these criteria for all vocational programmes. However, course teams normally have them in Word or Excel format to be copied across.

Further, as of January 2013, Compass are planning to launch an initiative to encourage colleges to share course structure information between themselves, where many colleges are running the same qualification on ProMonitor.

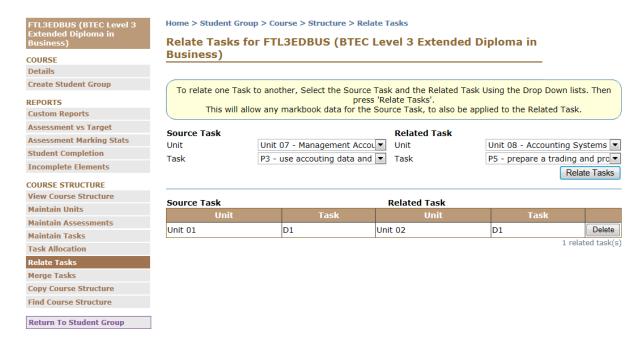
4.3.2 Allocating Tasks (where Assessments Exist)

If you have set up assessments, you can now 'allocate' your tasks to the assessment(s). Using this method allows ProMonitor to cater for situations where a single performance criterion may be covered in more than one assignment. Where no assessments exist then all tasks are automatically allocated directly to the unit.



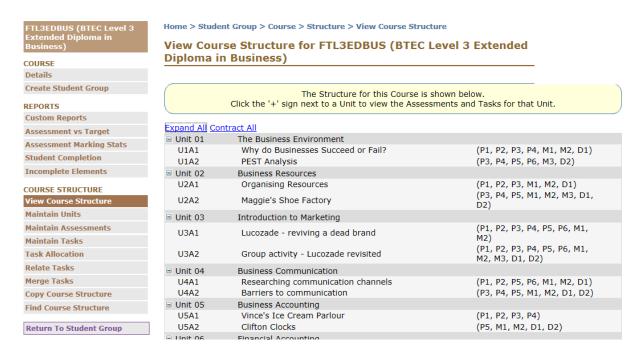
4.3.3 Relating Tasks

This function allows you to 'join' tasks together such that if one task in a unit is marked as completed by a teacher, another task in the same or any other unit will also be automatically marked as completed. Where performance critieria are common across units or covered jointly by a single student activity, this prevents teachers having to record the criteria separately. See also section 5.6 for an example where this feature is used to map tasks from a L1 course to Functional Skills.

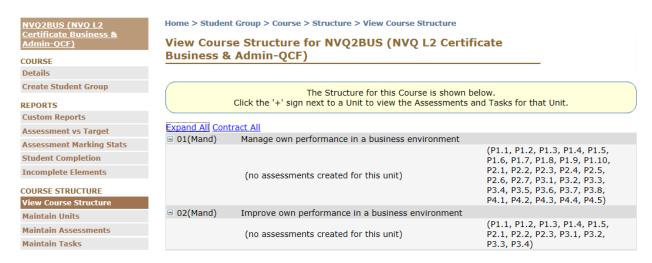


4.3.4 Checking the Course Structure

When you have finished building the course you can check it with **View Course Structure**. The first example below shows a course where assessments have been set up. Clicking **Expand All** shows the assessments/tasks in the units and which tasks are allocated to each assessment:



If assessments are not being used then this structure will simply list the tasks against the unit itself and indiciate **no assessments created for this unit**:



4.4 Allocating Work to Student Groups

Before any specific group of students on that course can have marks recorded, they must have the Units/Assessments/Tasks allocated to them. If you have gone to the course structure from a specific student group, the structure created will probably have been allocated to that group automatically, due to this tickbox which was introduced in ProMonitor version 8:

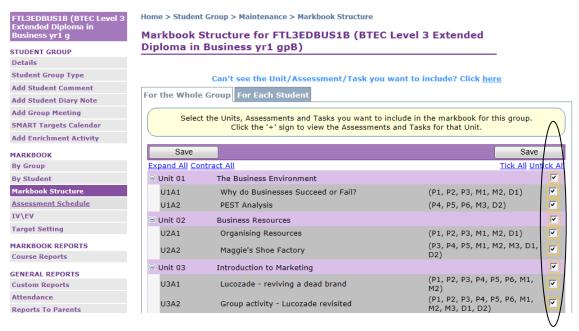
Allocate any new Units automatically to FTL3EDBUS1A (BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Business yr1)

However there may be occasions where different groups of students follow either the same or different combinations of units (or maybe even assessments or tasks) depending on their specialisms, but within the structure of the same overall course. A common example might be a L3 Diploma where there may be a number of common units but the optional units may vary. As a result you will always be required to confirm which units are to be followed by each individual student group. If you need to manually allocate a course structure to a student group, the following method should be used. Imagine we now want to allocate units from the Extended Diploma to group B (the structure was initially set up via group A).

Either from **Details** or via the ProMonitor home page, click on the student group required:



Then go to Markbook Structure and use Expand All to open up the lists:

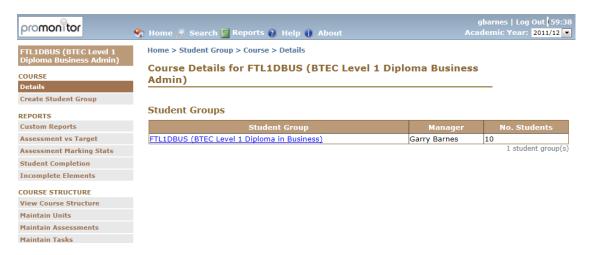


Tick the required units and/or assessments, click on one of the **Save** buttons and you are ready to record marks.

5 Example 3 – a Level 1 Diploma with Single Assessment per Unit

5.1 Setting up the Course Structure

Below we see the main **Course Details** page:



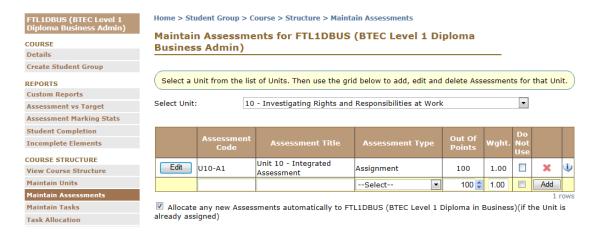
From here we can use the links under **COURSE STRUCTURE** to manage the units, assessments and tasks which are then available to any student group under this course.

5.2 Maintaining Units

For information on maintaining Units, including downloaded data from the OFQUAL register, see section 4.1

5.3 Maintaining Assessments

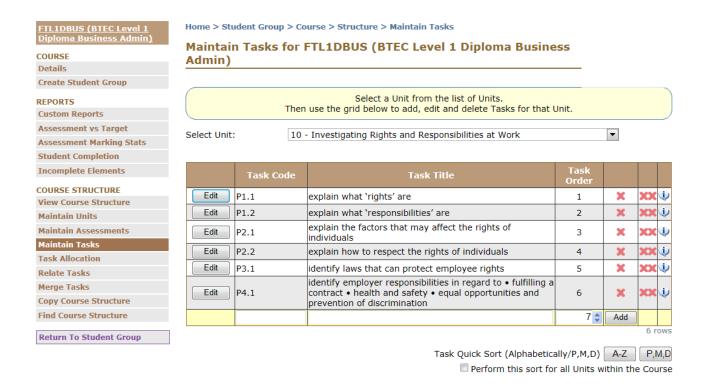
In this example, the course team has opted to give out a single over-arching assignment for each unit, containing a range of activities which collectively enable students to achieve all the PCs within that unit. On the **Maintain Assessments** page for Unit 10 we can see the integrated assignment listed:



Note once again the Add and Edit buttons which are used to maintain the list.

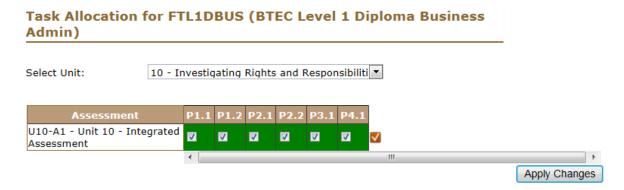
5.4 Maintaining Tasks

Tasks can then be added into a unit, by clicking on **Maintain Tasks** and adding to the list as in this example below, again from Unit 10:



5.5 Allocating Tasks

Where assessments have been set up, the distribution of tasks across the assessments must now be defined. In this example this is easy as there is only one assessment per unit. Under **Task Allocation** we simply tick the boxes to show which tasks belong to which assessment(s):



This feature exists to cater for situations where a single PC may be covered in more than one assessment, allowing students multiple opportunities to achieve that PC.

5.6 Relating Tasks – Link to Functional Skills

If two separate tasks are related then flagging one as complete will automatically cause the other to be flagged as complete. This can be particularly useful if you wish to add extra units for e.g. Functional Skills to a main qualification, and use the main units to cover the functional skills criteria.

In the screen below you can see the option to relate a Source Task to a Related Task.

Each pair of related tasks is added successively to the table at the lower part of the screen. Here we can see that Unit 10 task P2.2 is being related to P1.1, P1.2, P1.3 and P1.4 from the Functional Skills unit FS-ENG-01(i.e. the first section of the level 1 Functional Skills specification for English):

Relate Tasks for FTL1DBUS (BTEC Level 1 Diploma Business Admin) To relate one Task to another, Select the Source Task and the Related Task Using the Drop Down lists. Then press 'Relate Tasks'. This will allow any markbook data for the Source Task, to also be applied to the Related Task. Source Task Related Task Unit -- Select a unit --Unit -- Select a unit --Task Task Relate Tasks Related Task Source Task Unit Task Unit P2.2 Delete 10 FS-ENG-01 P1.1 P2.2 P1.2 Delete 10 FS-ENG-01 10 P2.2 FS-ENG-01 P1.3 Delete 10 P2.2 FS-ENG-01 P1.4 Delete

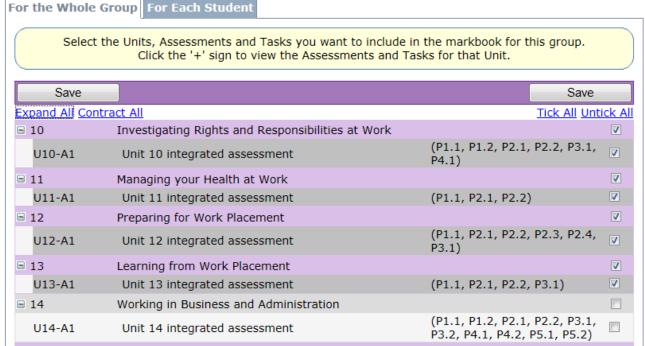
(Note —as Functional Skills are externally assessed using tests, mapping them into a main programme can only be used to show opportunities to develop or practice the required skills. Hence if PCs relating to Functional Skills are flagged as complete on ProMonitor this doesn't represent actual completion of the qualification in the same way as on a portfolio-assessed course).

5.7 Allocating Work to the Student Group

Before any marks or grades can be recorded, you first need to make sure that the units, assessments and tasks from the course structure (as described in section 5 above) have been allocated to the student group. First go back to the student group pages, and then go to the **Markbook Structure** page:

Markbook Structure for FTL1DBUS (BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Business)

Can't see the Unit/Assessment/Task you want to include? Click here



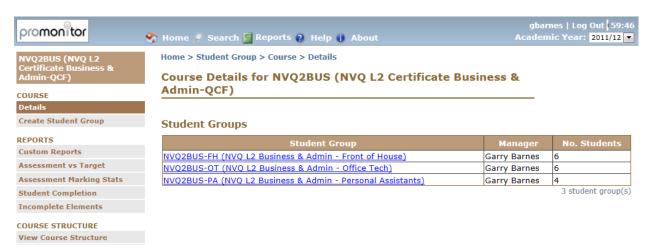
The structure may already be ticked if it has been automatically added to a student group (see Extended Diploma example for full explanation). However, items will have to be ticked if you want to use elements of the same structure for other student groups.

Above we can see the first few units, each with its single integrated assessment which in turn has the PCs linked. You can see that unit 14 is not ticked, as this unit was initially set up but is not going to be used by the teacher, as sufficient credit value can be gained from the other units followed.

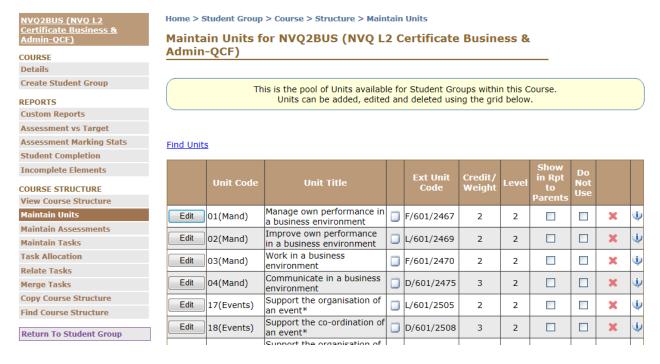
6 Example 4 – an NVQ with Units and Tasks only (no Assessments)

6.1 Adding and Maintaining Units

Below we can see the main Course Details page for an NVQ:



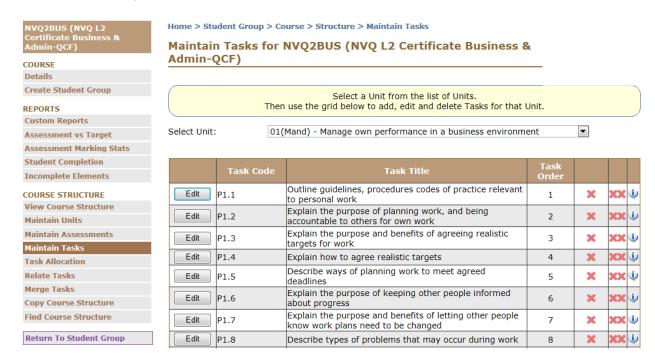
With an NVQ there are likely to be a large number of units and students/groups following a variety of different combinations. In this case the downloaded OFQUAL unit information is likely to be particularly useful (see section 4.1.1) In the example below we see some of the units which have already been added for this L2 NVQ:



Note that the correct credit weighting and NVQ level is recorded against each unit. New units can be created using the **Add** function at the bottom of the table, or edited using the **Edit** button. Any units which may have been set up but are no longer needed can be flagged as **Do Not Use** when in **Edit** mode.

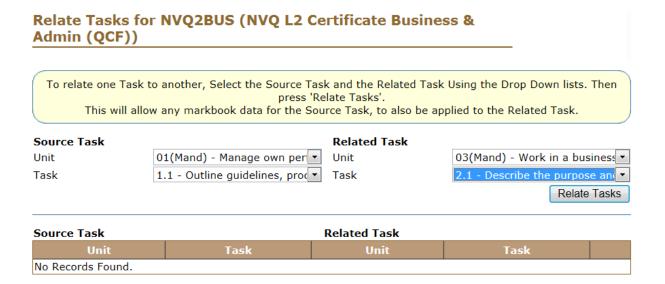
6.2 Adding and Maintaining Tasks (Performance Criteria/Indicators)

Using **Maintain Tasks**, the Awarding Body's performance indicators can next be recorded for the relevant unit. Here we see the top of a list of PCs which have been added to the NVQ unit:



6.3 Relating Tasks

This function allows you to 'join' tasks together such that if one task in a unit is marked as completed by a teacher, another task in the same or any other unit will also be automatically marked as completed. Where performance critieria are common across units or covered by a single student activity, this prevents teachers having to record the criteria separately. See also section 5.6 for an example where this feature is used to map tasks from a L1 course to Functional Skills.

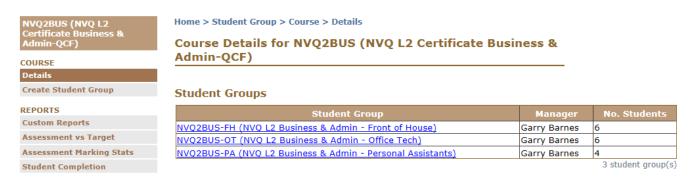


6.4 Allocating Work to Groups or Individual Learners

Before any specific group of students on that course can have marks recorded, they must have the Units/Assessments/Tasks allocated to them.

This stage is necessary as there may be occasions where different groups of students follow various combinations of units (or maybe even assessments or tasks) depending on their specialisms, but within the structure of the same overall course. A common example might be a L3 Diploma where there may be a number of common units but the optional units may vary. As a result you will always be required to confirm which units are to be followed by each individual student group.

Return to **Details** and click on the student group required:



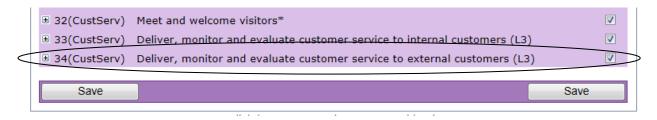
Go to **Markbook Structure** page to check which units are already allocated. If necessary, tick the required units and click **Save** to allocate to all learners:



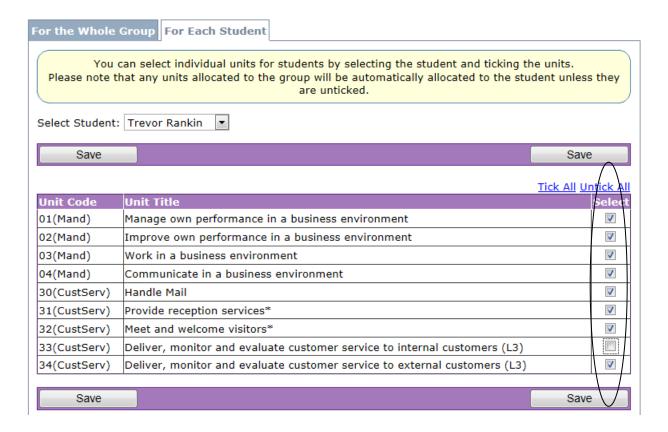
Note that you can also select or de-select units for individual students using this page, by clicking on the **For Each Student** tab. This feature can enable you to create and track individualised learner pathways within the ProMonitor system.

For example if we wished to allow some students to follow unit 34 in place of unit 33, we can add unit 34 to the group and then deselect unit 33 from the students who wish to change.

First add in unit 34 to make it available to all students in the group:



Using the **For Each Student** tab, it's then possible to tailor each student's specific list of units to appear on the markbook:



Appendix – a diagram to show how a course structure works in ProMonitor

