

JobOnline Block Documentation

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1. Overview

University of London's JobOnline block presents a list of jobs in the form of a Moodle block which can be placed in the standard locations or the top of a main content area in themes which do not support central blocks.

2. Installation

Install the block in the normal place (blocks/jobonline) and run notifications from the system administration menu.

3. Configuration

The block has several configuration options, two of which are required:

3.1. Jobs Feed Url.

This is simply the source of the jobs data and will be provided to you by the Careers Group at the University of London.

3.2. Password for jobs feed.

This will be provided to you separately by the Careers Group.

As well as these required settings, there are several options which can be left at their defaults or adjusted to specific needs:

3.3. Bounce block into centre

The expected use of the block is as a single item in the main content of a page dedicated to it. However, not all Moodle themes support placing a block in the main area of a page and so some Javascript has been added to the block to allow it to force itself into that area even if the theme does not officially allow it.

If your Moodle theme does allow blocks in the main content area, then turn this setting off and simply use the normal procedure. Otherwise, turn this setting on (or leave it on, as it's the default), and when the block is added to the page you want it to appear on it should automatically "bounce" itself from the marginal block column into the central area.

3.4. Priority Sectors

Each position offered in the jobs feed falls into one or more sectors, such as "public sector and government", "teaching and education" and so forth. If this setting is left blank then the sector drop-down filter will simply be an alphabetical list of choices. If a single sector is added here, then that sector will be moved to the top of the list regardless of its alphabetical order. To prioritise more than one sector, they should be listed together with a '|' character between them. For example:

```
hr|design|arts administration|Digital marketing
```

would move those three items to the top of the list, sort them alphabetically within themselves (so the order here makes no difference), and then list all the remaining sectors after them.

Currently, the full list is

Academic research and higher education

Accountancy and financial management - Assurance

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries

Arts administration

Building services engineering

Charities and volunteering

Consulting

Consumer goods and manufacturing

Design

Digital marketing

Engineering - Aerospace engineering

HR

Hospitality, sport, leisure and tourism

IT and technology - Business and systems analysis

Investment banking and fund management - Investment banking

Law barristers

Law enforcement, security and intelligence

Logistics, transport and supply chain

Media, journalism and publishing

Medical and dental

Public sector and government

Retail, buying and merchandising

Science and research

Social and market research

Teaching and education

Translation services

but it may change without notice as jobs are added in different sectors. The list presented to the user is automatically updated when jobs are added or removed from the feed.

With the setting given above, the list presented to the user would be:

Arts administration

Design

Digital marketing

HR

Academic research and higher education

Accountancy and financial management - Assurance

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries

Building services engineering

Charities and volunteering

Consulting

...

Translation services

3.5. *Priority Locations*

This works the same way as the Priority Sector setting works. The current list of locations is

Africa

Argentina

Armenia

Asia

Australasia

Australia

Bahamas

Bahrain

Belgium

Botswana

Brazil

Burkina Faso

Canada

Channel Islands

Chile

China

Colombia

Cyprus

Denmark

Egypt

England - East Midlands

England - East of England

England - Greater London

England - North East

England - North West

England - South East

England - South West

England - West Midlands

England - Yorkshire and the Humber

Ethiopia

France

Germany

Greece

India

Israel

Italy

Jamaica

Japan

Jordan

Kenya

Liberia

Libya

Luxembourg

Mainland Europe

Malaysia

Mexico

Middle East

Mozambique

Nepal

Netherlands

Nigeria

Northern Ireland

Norway

Peru

Philippines

Poland

Republic of Ireland

Rest of the world

Russia

Scotland - Aberdeen and North East

Scotland - Central Scotland (Perth, Falkirk, Stirling, Grange mouth)

Scotland - East Scotland (Dundee, Tayside, Fife, Angus)

Scotland - Edinburgh and Lothian

Scotland - Glasgow

Scotland - Highlands and Islands

Scotland - Scottish Borders

Scotland - West Scotland

Sierra Leone

Singapore

Slovakia

South Africa

Spain

Sri Lanka

Sweden

Switzerland

Tanzania

Tunisia

Turkey

Uganda

Ukraine

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

United Kingdom (UK)

United States

United States of America (USA)

Vietnam

Wales - North and Mid

Wales - South

3.6. Latest date to show

This acts as a global filter when sorting by closing date and is simply the distance into the future the block will display. It uses a standard Moodle time selector so it allows the time limit to be given in terms of weeks, days, hours, minutes, or even seconds but most sites will probably use it to define a number of weeks.

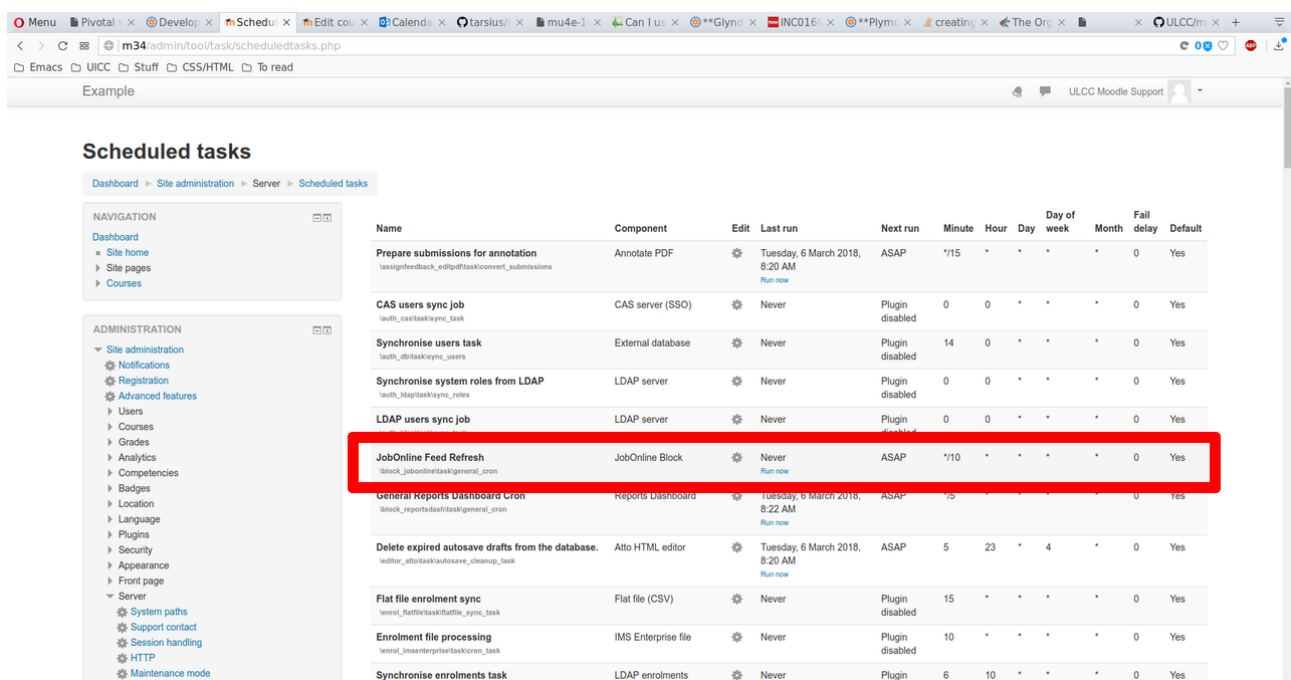
The setting has no effect if the block has been set by the user to sort items starting with the most recently added ones.

3.7. Maximum number of jobs

Simply a limit to the number of jobs displayed by the block at any one time.

3.8. Scheduled task

The feed is read and cached based on a scheduled task in Moodle. The default is to read the feed every ten minutes but this can be adjusted if desired.



The screenshot shows the Moodle 'Scheduled tasks' page. The 'JobOnline Feed Refresh' task is highlighted with a red rectangle. The table below represents the data shown in the screenshot.

Name	Component	Edit	Last run	Next run	Minute	Hour	Day	Day of week	Month	Fail delay	Default
Prepare submissions for annotation <small>/assignfeedback_externaltaskconvert_submissions</small>	Annotate PDF		Tuesday, 6 March 2018, 8:20 AM Run now	ASAP	*15	*	*	*	*	0	Yes
CAS users sync job <small>/auth_cas/tasksync_task</small>	CAS server (SSO)		Never	Plugin disabled	0	0	*	*	*	0	Yes
Synchronise users task <small>/auth_db/tasksync_users</small>	External database		Never	Plugin disabled	14	0	*	*	*	0	Yes
Synchronise system roles from LDAP <small>/auth_db/tasksync_roles</small>	LDAP server		Never	Plugin disabled	0	0	*	*	*	0	Yes
LDAP users sync job <small>/auth_db/tasksync_users</small>	LDAP server		Never	Plugin disabled	0	0	*	*	*	0	Yes
JobOnline Feed Refresh <small>/block_jobonline/task/general_cron</small>	JobOnline Block		Never Run now	ASAP	*10	*	*	*	*	0	Yes
General Reports Dashboard Cron <small>/block_reports/task/general_cron</small>	Reports Dashboard		Tuesday, 6 March 2018, 8:22 AM Run now	ASAP	15	*	*	*	*	0	Yes
Delete expired autosave drafts from the database. <small>/editor_atto/task/autosave_cleanup_task</small>	Atto HTML editor		Tuesday, 6 March 2018, 8:20 AM Run now	ASAP	5	23	*	4	*	0	Yes
Flat file enrolment sync <small>/enrol_flatfile/task/flatfile_sync_task</small>	Flat file (CSV)		Never	Plugin disabled	15	*	*	*	*	0	Yes
Enrolment file processing <small>/enrol_imsenterprise/task/cron_task</small>	IMS Enterprise file		Never	Plugin disabled	10	*	*	*	*	0	Yes
Synchronise enrolments task <small>/enrol_ldap/task/sync_enrolments_task</small>	LDAP enrolments		Never	Plugin disabled	6	10	*	*	*	0	Yes

Figure 3.8.1: Creating the course: general settings

4. Usage

4.1. Placement

The block can be used as a normal Moodle marginal block, and works well as such. However, the intended use is as the single item in a course page devoted to it which allows more space for the text when using a larger display, although it remains responsive to changes in size and use on mobile devices. The suggested setup is as follows:

4.1.1. Create a course

1. Give the course whatever name seems appropriate

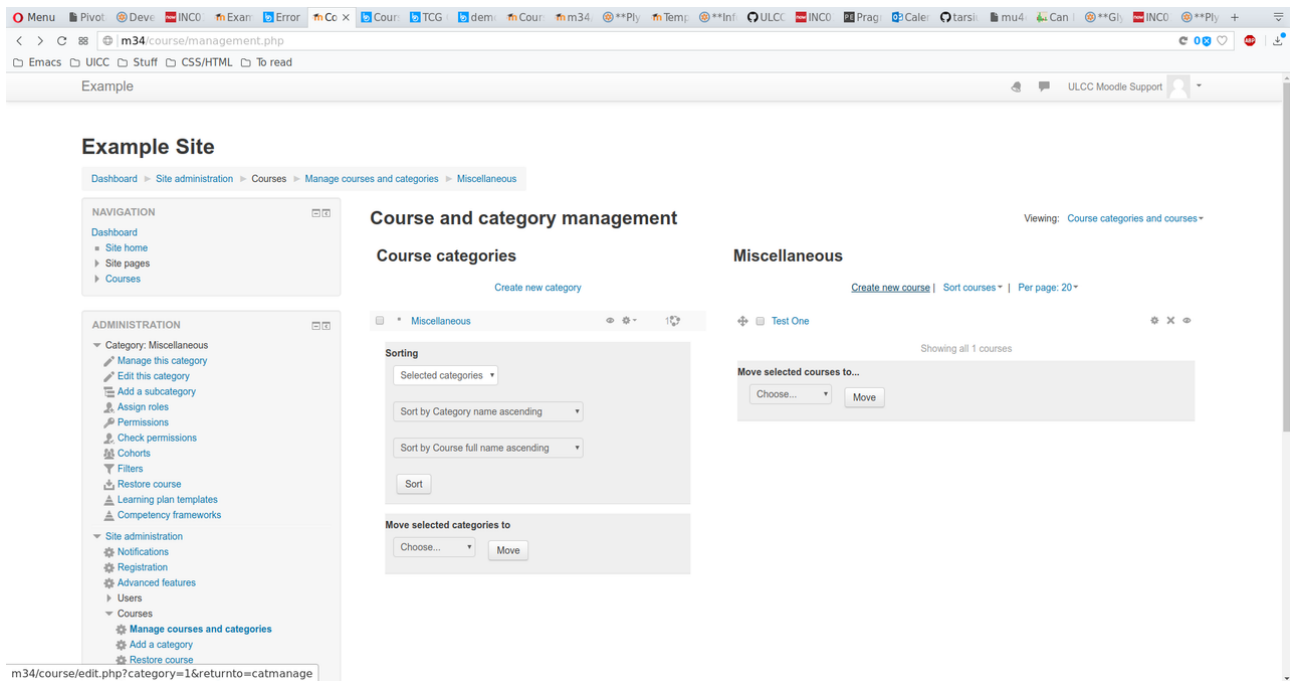


Figure 4.1.1: Adding a course

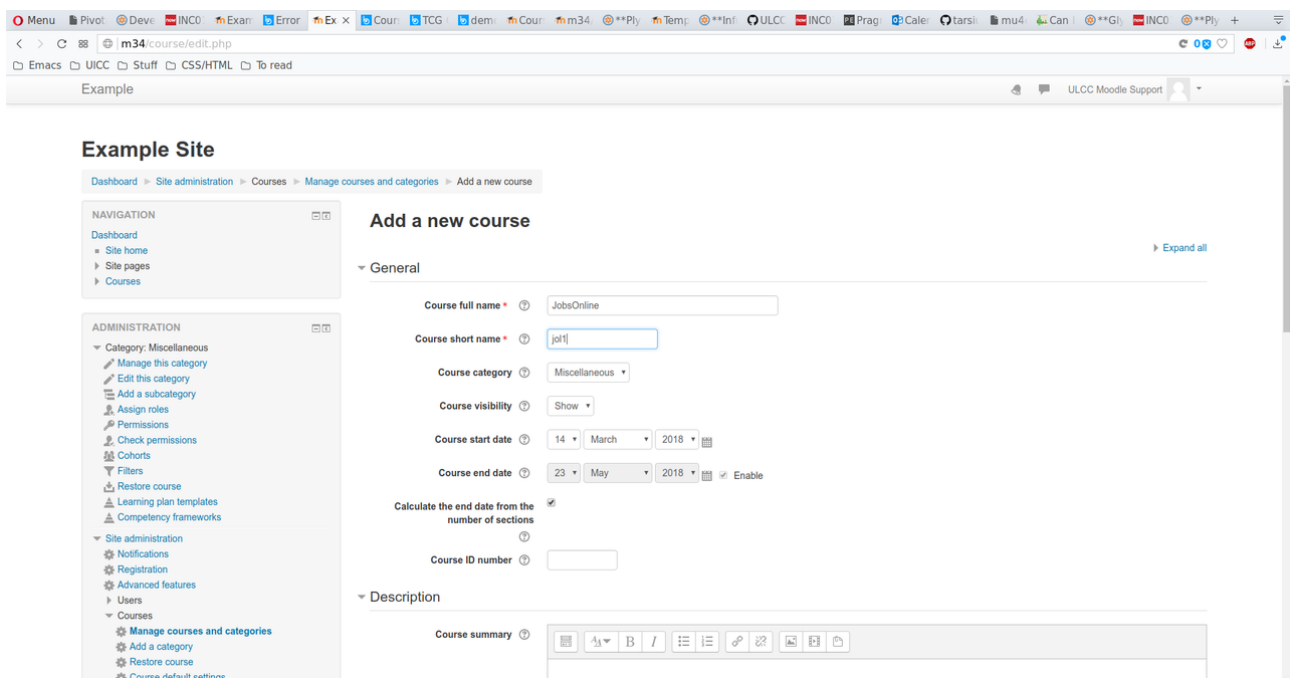


Figure 4.1.2: Creating the course: general settings

2. Set the format to “Topics format”
 1. Number of sections to zero
 2. Hidden sections to “completely invisible”

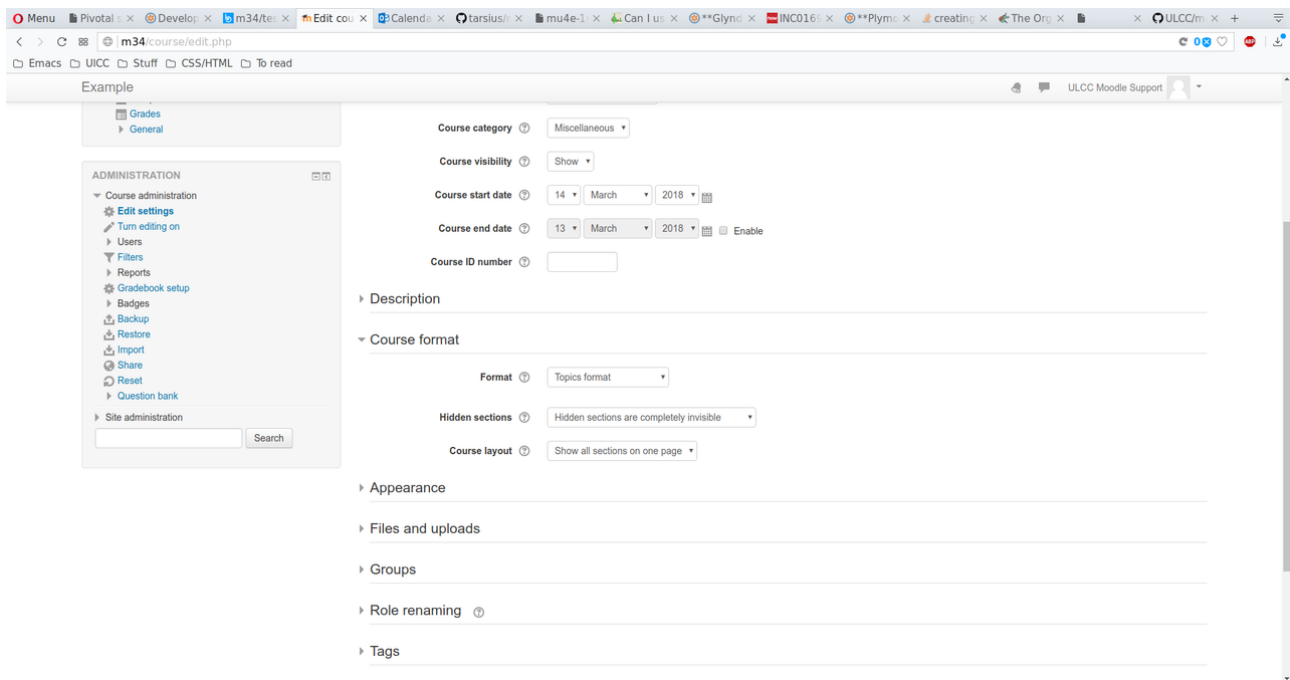


Figure 4.1.3: Creating the course: topics settings

3. Click on “Save and Display” This takes you to the enrolment page, but ignore that for now.
4. Click on “Proceed to course content”
5. “Turn editing on”

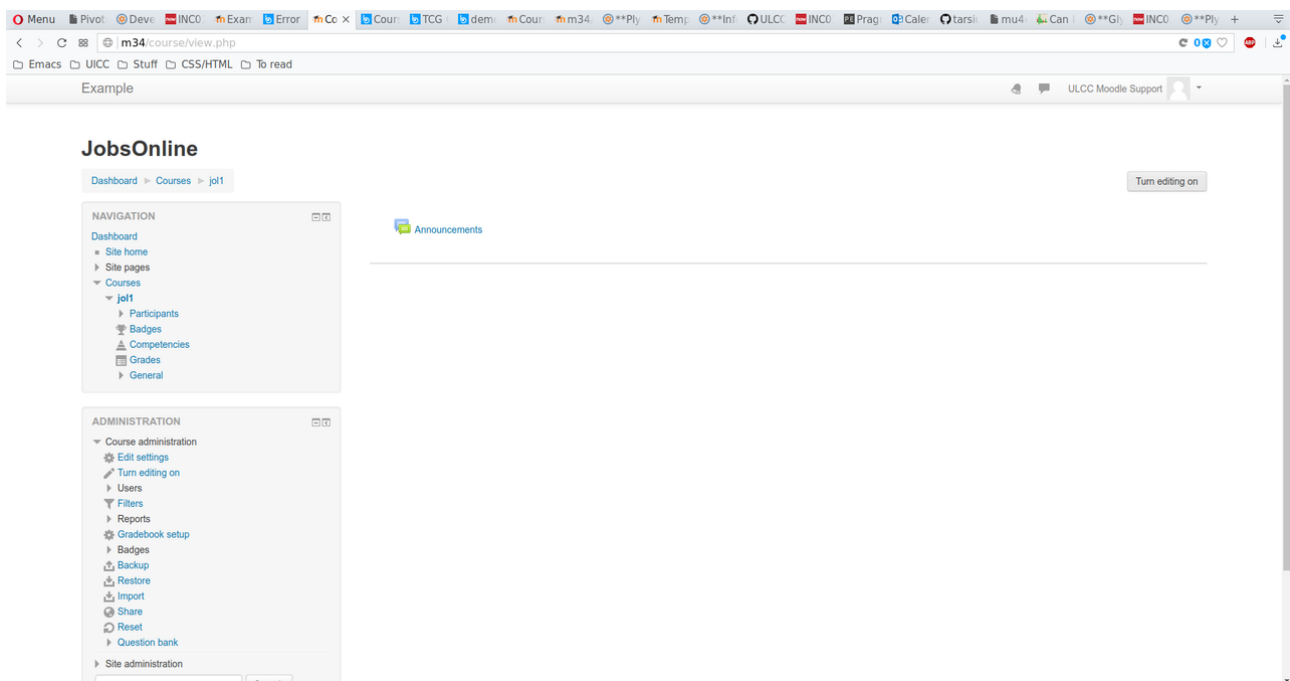


Figure 4.1.4: Turn editing on button

6. Use the “Add a block” dropdown to select “JobOnline Block”

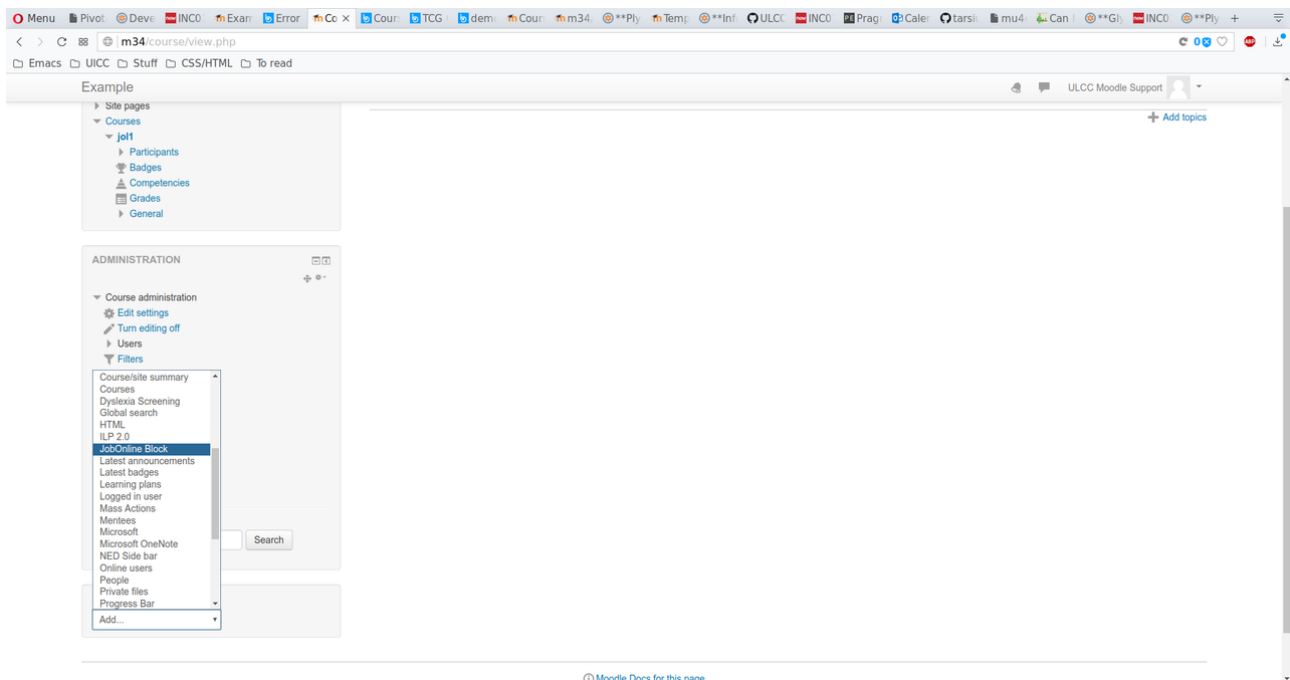


Figure 4.1.5: Adding the block

1. If you have “Bounce into centre” on in the settings then you should immediately see the block appear in the main content section of the course.
2. If not, then the block will appear in the margin with the other blocks and can be moved around like any other block.

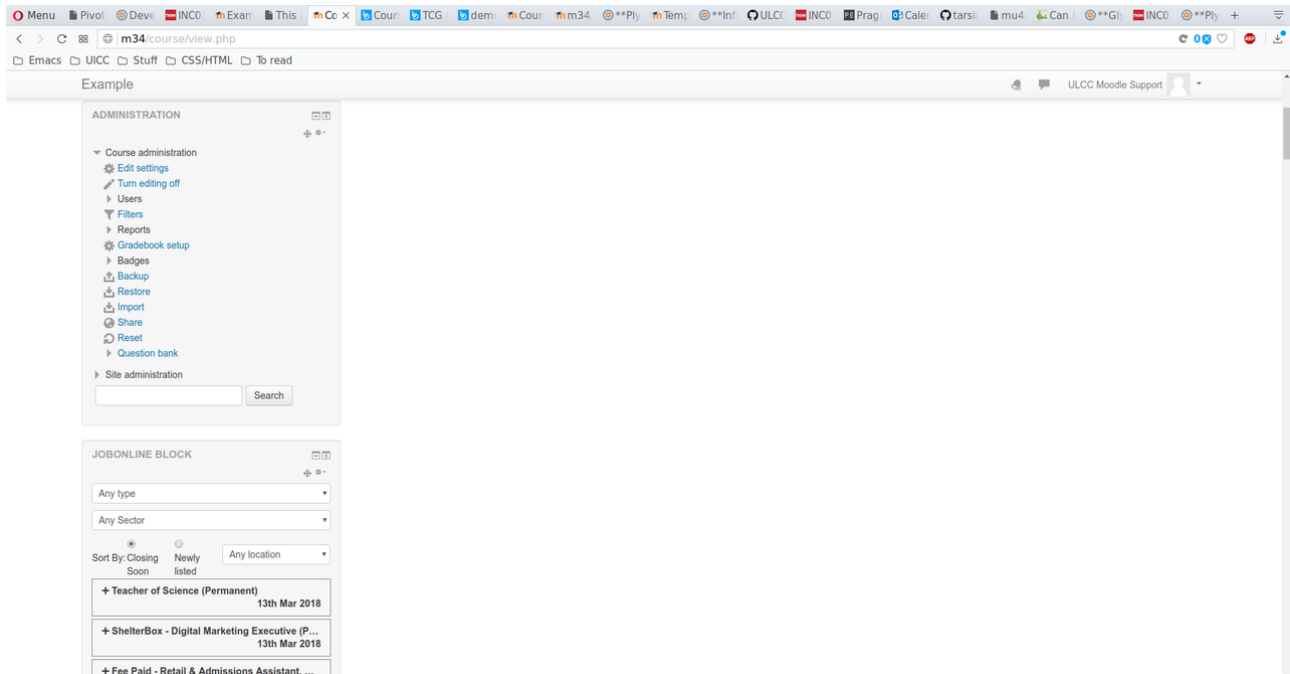


Figure 4.1.6: Block displayed in margin

7. You will probably want to turn on guest access to this course so that students can access it without being enrolled on it. Note that this is distinct from allowing guest access to the Moodle site.

The course as set up here will still have a default news forum (probably called “Announcements”). This can be hidden if desired.

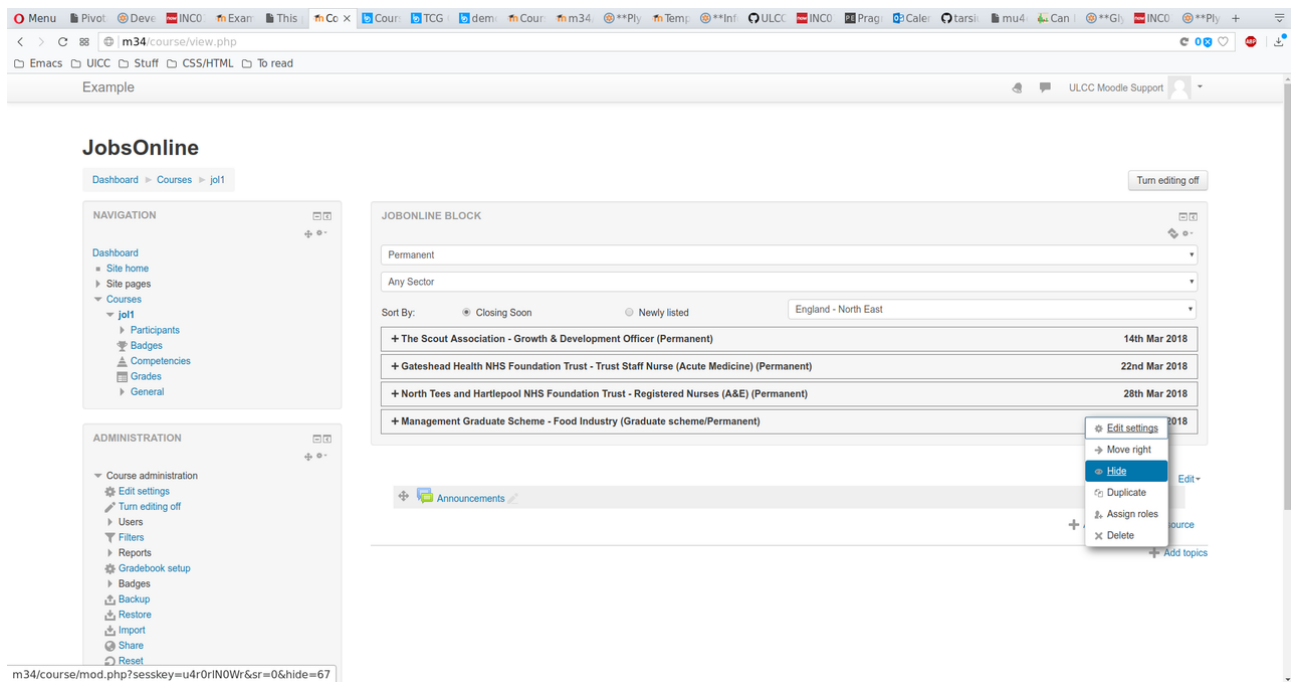


Figure 4.1.7: No news is good news

4.2. User view

The usage of the block for the student is fairly straight-forward. The filters are set according to the drop down menus for contract type, sector, and location and a list of posts is displayed. Notice that the contents of each menu react to the settings in the others. Sorting can be with the most recent postings first, or with the most imminent closing dates first.

For example, if the user is only interested in Yorkshire, the contract type and sector menus will only display types and sectors which actually exist in the database for Yorkshire. Similarly, a user looking for graduate schemes in HR will only see a list of locations where any such schemes are available.

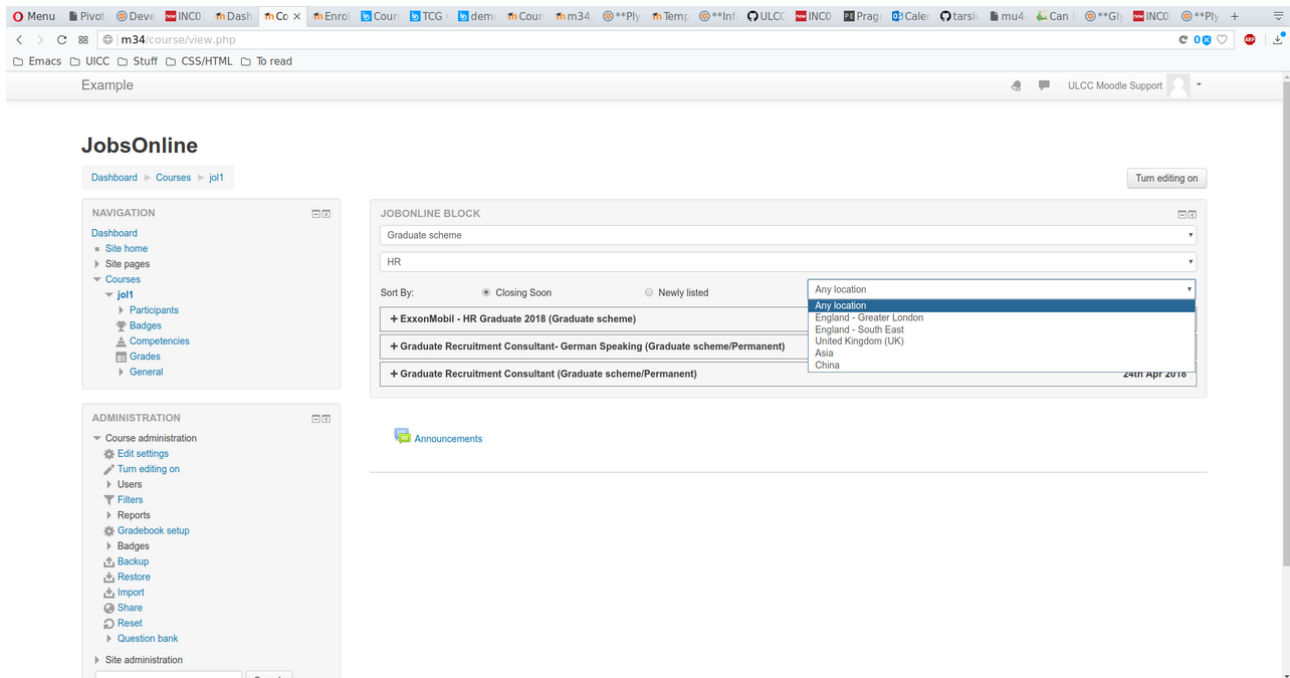


Figure 4.2.1: Combining filters

The main display lists the job title followed by all the contract types available for that post in brackets, and ends with the closing date. The date shown is always the closing date, even if sorting by recent posts.

Clicking on one of these headlines will open the job description to give further information, including a means to apply. This can be either a link to a webpage where applications can be made, or as a mailto: address which should open the student's mail client to send an email to a contact address.

4.2.1. The job description

The job description does not hold literally all the data on each job from the feed and in particular it strips a lot of HTML out of the summary text in an effort to protect the Moodle site's layout from stray div tags and out-sized images.

Additionally, many jobs in the feed include several items relating to salary. The display shows the main entry (say, "Competitive") and then a ⓘ icon to show that there is more which is displayed when clicking on the icon. For example, the "Competitive" salary may be noted as "Salary plus generous expenses package worth over £60,000. All expenses covered including travel, accommodation, food, bills and healthcare." to take a real example.

Due to the flexibility of what might be entered into the main salary area for a job, it is not currently possible to filter by salary.

5. Design notes

The plugin does not allow multiple selection in the filters due to the expectation of heavy usage from mobile devices which do not allow such manipulations.

There is currently still a redundant looping over the feed data to generate the three filters. That should be looked at if time becomes available.

Filter setting data is held in the session and then copied into the user's preferences if they are not guest. This allows multiple guests to use the plugin without overwriting each other's filter settings. Guests get their filters reset to all-clear each time they start a new session, but normal users retain theirs from login to login.

Sessionid is not currently passed to brain from the Ajax code. There's no sensitive data being passed so it didn't seem worthwhile.