Using Conditional Activities in the VLE

TUTOR GUIDE

v3.3

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A. Introduction

The **Conditional Activities** feature enables the tutor to restrict access to students to any activity or resource. Access can be based on one or more criteria being met, such as a date, grade received in another activity, the completion of another activity, etc. In combination with the **Activity Completion** feature, Conditional Activities can be used to create a learning path for students in a VLE area.

More information about Activity Completion is available in a separate user guide.

This type of approach can also allow for a more focused targeting of content, providing extra resources to those who are below a certain standard in results but yet allowing others to skip the extra information if they have already completed a high enough marking in an assessment tool (assignment, quiz etc) or activity.

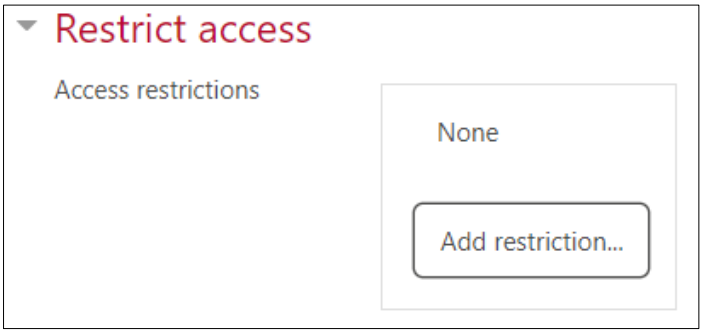
It may indeed make population of a VLE area more complex, in that it needs more thought and planning, but the number of options it offers to the tutor means it will be a much beneficial feature.

B. Restrict access settings

The settings for conditional access are in the **Restrict access** section of the resource/activity settings page. In this section, the tutor sets the criteria when the resource or activity should be made available to students.

To set a resource or activity with conditional access:

1. Access the required VLE area.
2. Click the **Start editing** button.
3. Access the resource/activity settings page either:
    a. when creating the resource/activity, or
    b. by clicking the adjacent **Edit** link and **Edit settings** .
4. Expand the **Restrict access** section.



5. Click the **Add restriction…** button.

    The **Add restriction…** dialog box, available overleaf, is displayed.

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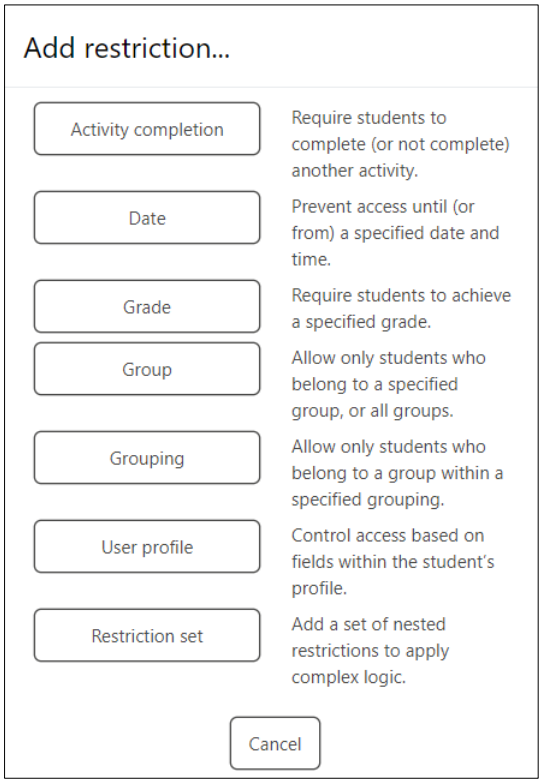

6. Select any of the following restrictions as necessary (detailed explanation in section C below):
    a. Activity completion
    b. Date (Allow access from / Allow access until)
    c. Grade
    d. Group
    e. Grouping
    f. User profile
    g. Restriction set

    Further conditions will be displayed with respect to the selected restriction/s.

7. If a restriction/s is selected, you need to indicate whether the students **must** or **must not** match the required criteria.

Note that, by default, this setting is always set as **must**.

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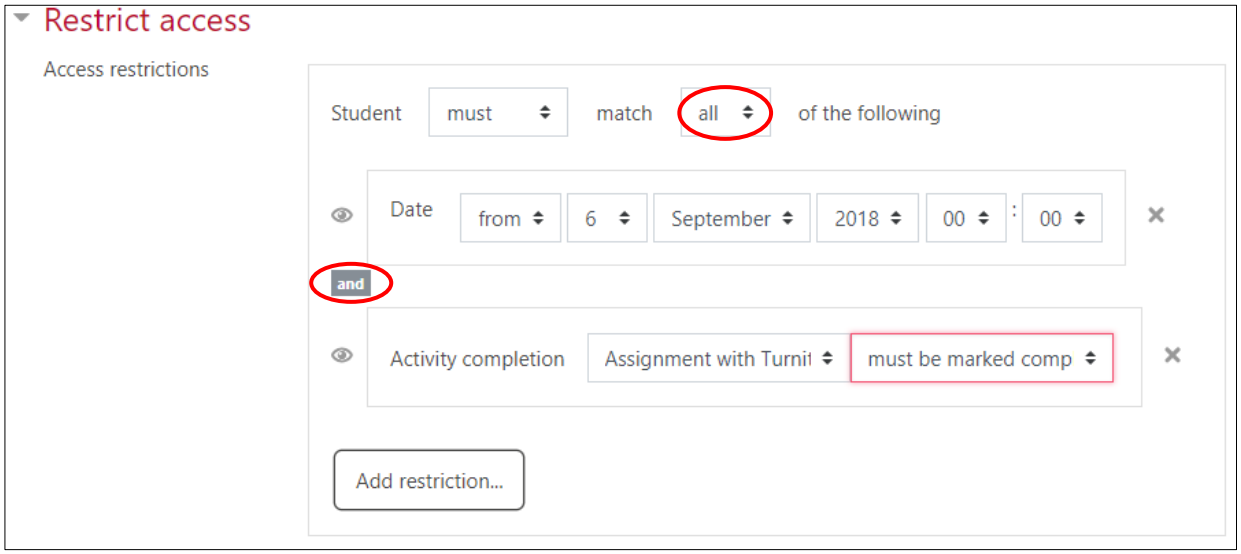
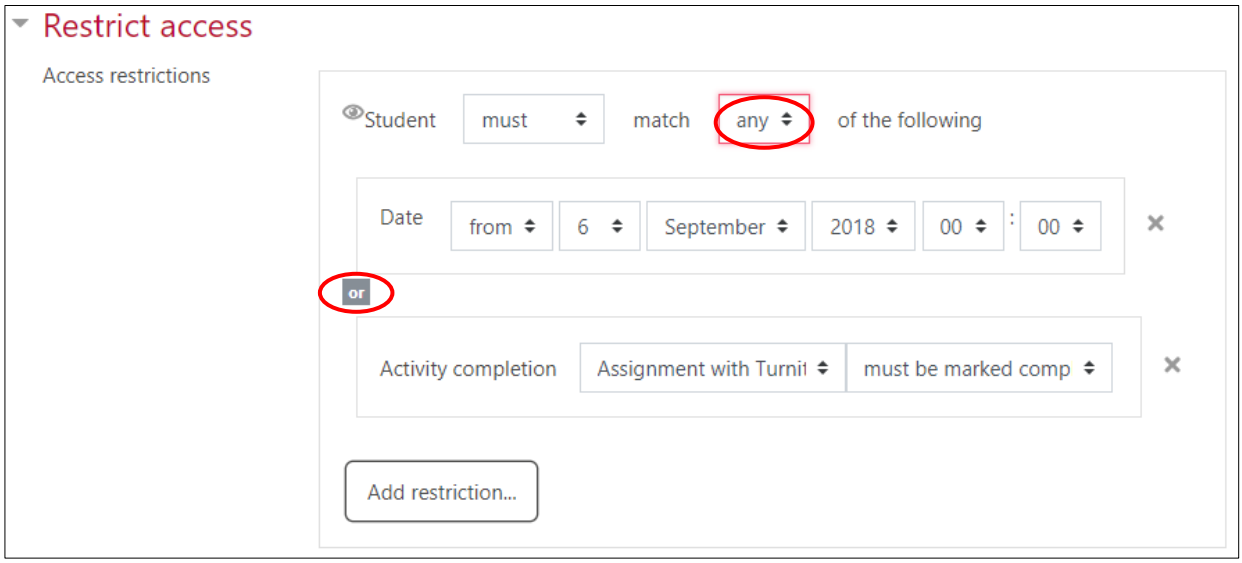
8. You may add further restrictions by clicking the **Add restriction…** button again. In such case you may specify whether **all** of the conditions or **any** of the conditions must be met, for any activity to be made available. Thus, it is possible to use **AND**, as well as **OR** conditions.





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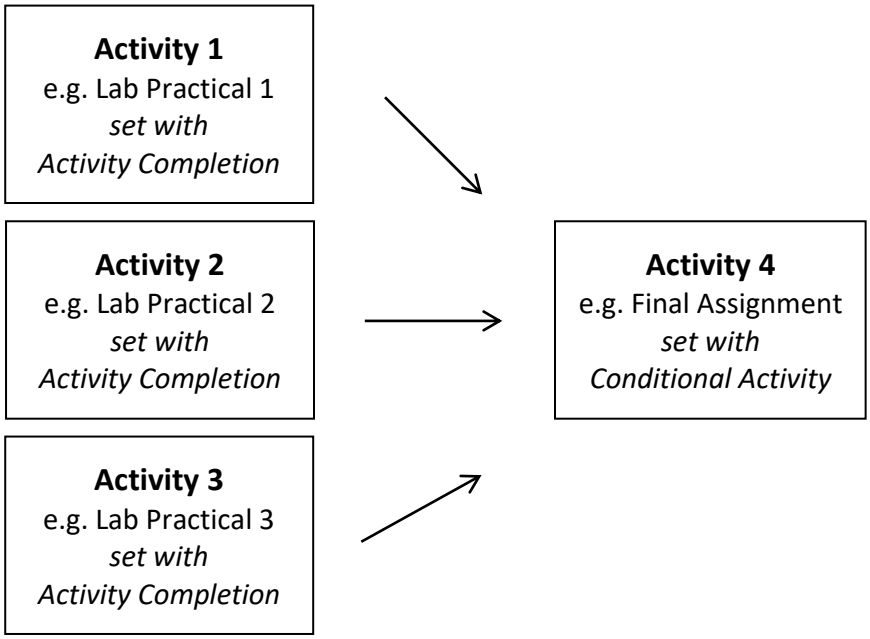
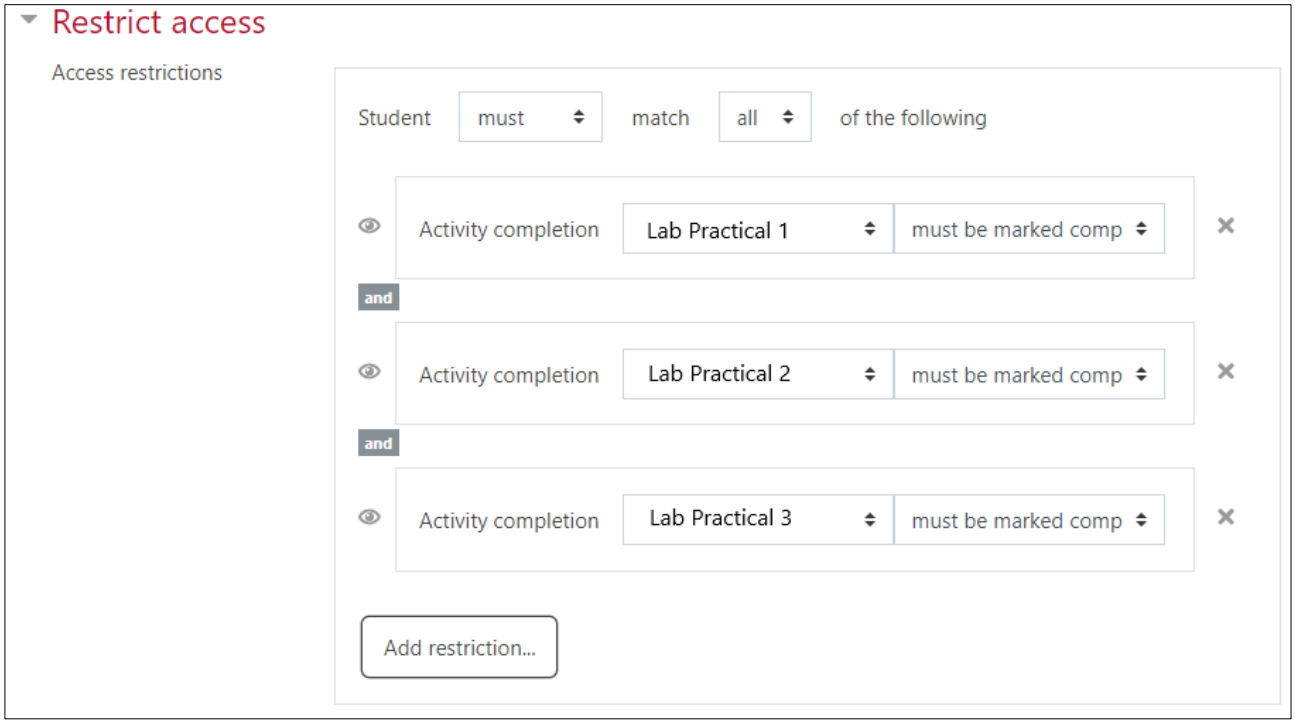
C. Access conditions

Activities can be set to be conditionally accessed according to any of the following criteria:

Activity completion

This setting determines any activity completion conditions which must be met for an activity in order to access the activity. Note that completion tracking must first be set on the activity or resource (e.g. Activity 1) that you choose for this completion condition, before an activity completion condition can be set to the activity (e.g. Activity 2). (More information about Activity Completion is available in a separate user guide.)





In the above example, Activity 4 (Final Assignment) is set to show if Activities 1-3 (Lab Practical 1 – 3) are marked as complete.

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Once you choose the activity to use in this setting, you have the following options:

- must be marked complete
- must not be marked complete
- must be complete with pass grade
- must be complete with fail grade

Multiple grade conditions and multiple activity completion settings can be set for allowing access to a resource or activity. You need to remember that all of the restrictions that you specify here will have to be met in order for the activity to be made available.

You can hide the activity entirely from students until they have access, by clicking the **Hide/Show** button to be displayed as . Otherwise you can show the activity greyed out, with information on the restrictions on access, by leaving the **Hide/Show** button as is .

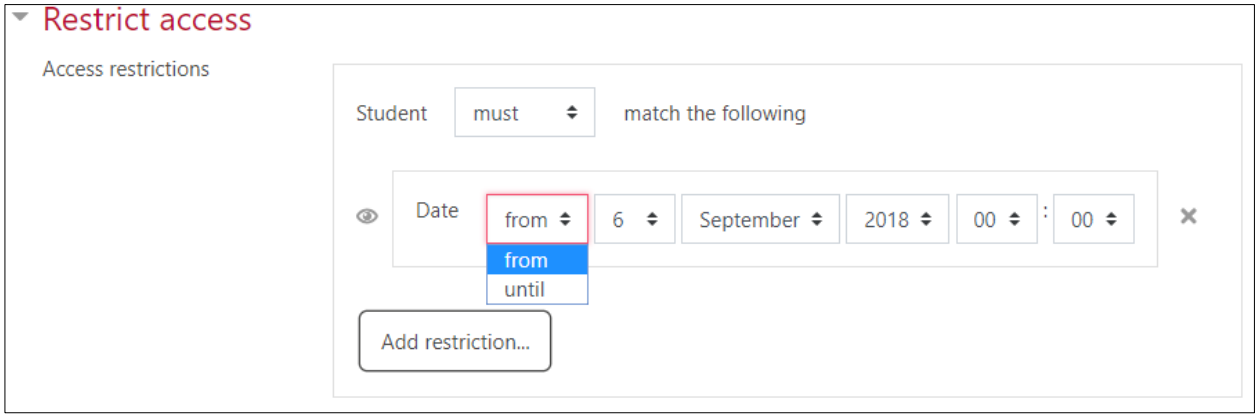
Date

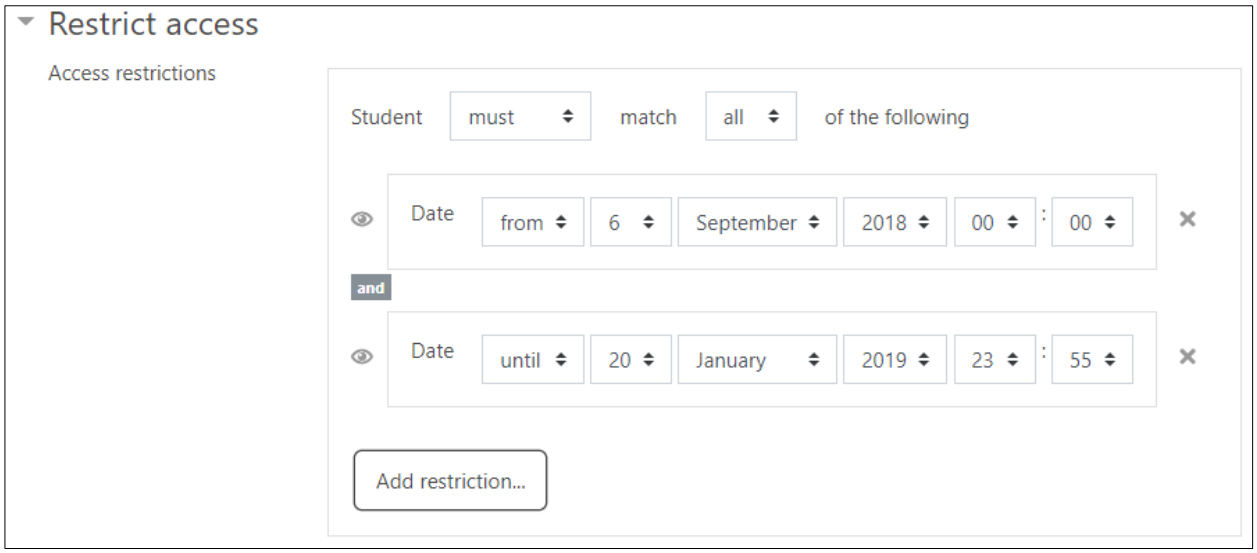
By default, all resources or activities are set as always available to students. If you want to limit availability to a specific period of days, use the **Date** restriction. You can allow access:

a) **from** a specified date

b) **until** a specified date

c) **from AND until** a specified date, by including two restricted conditions





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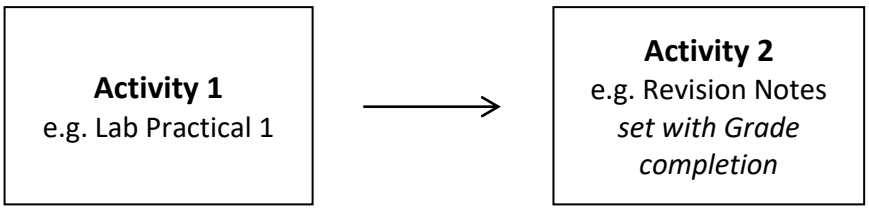
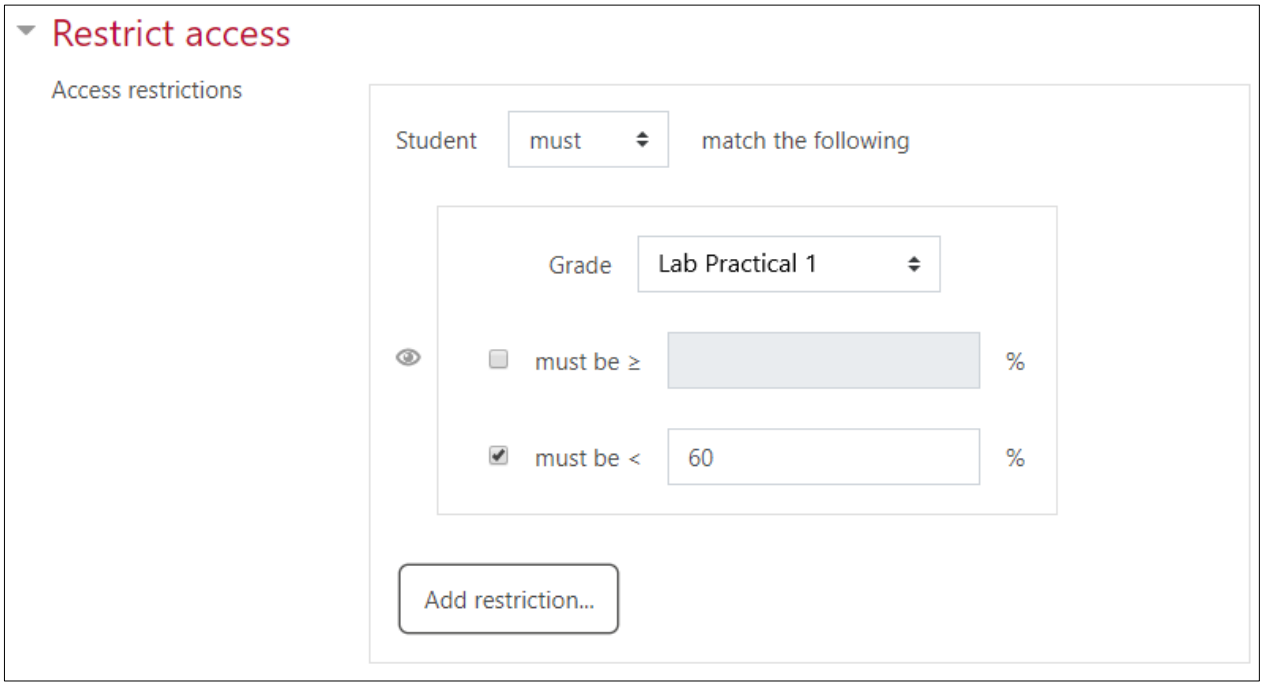
In the above example, the activity is set to be available to students between 6 September 2018, 00:00 and 20 January 2019, 23:55. Other than this time period the activity is greyed-out from students.

The **Date** restriction can be used to automatically roll-out courseware and activities progressively throughout the semester.

Grade

This setting determines any grade conditions (awarded for other activities) which must be met in order to access the activity. You can choose a range of scores or simply set a minimum score here.





In the above example, Activity 2 (Revision Notes) is set to be hidden from a student unless he obtains a grade less than 60% in Activity 1 (Lab Practical 1). By using the **Grade** restriction, the tutor is thus providing additional resources to any student who requires more attention.

Likewise, the tutor can use the Grade condition to provide more challenging tasks/activities to students who excel in their studies.

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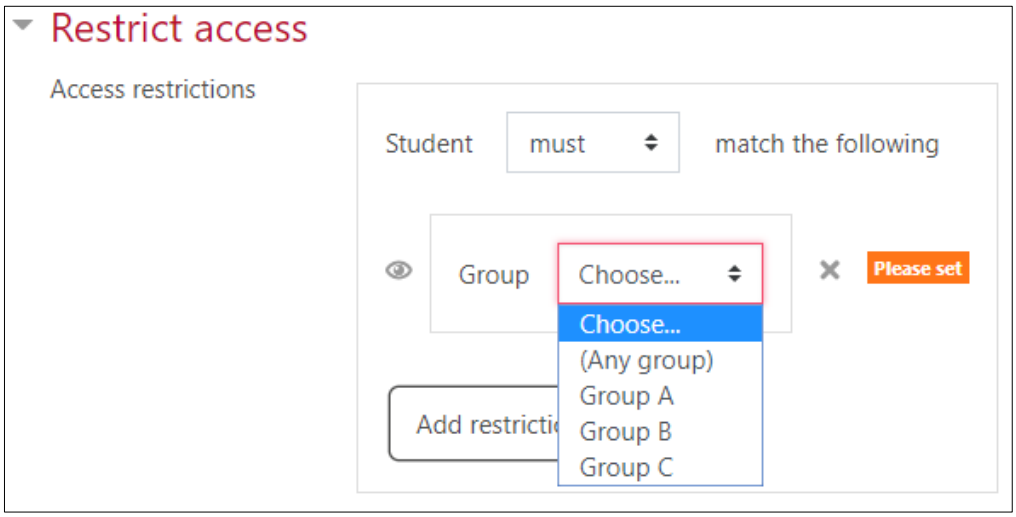
Group and grouping

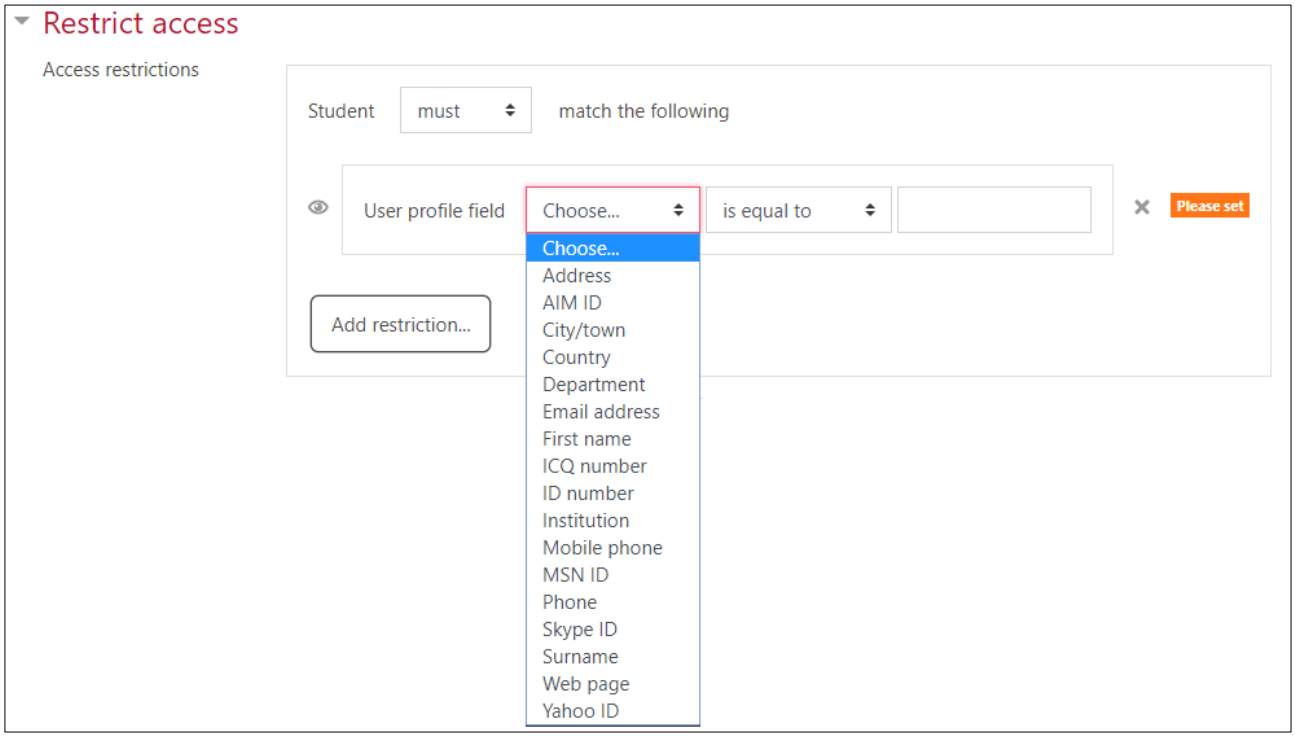
If you make use of groups and groupings in your VLE area, then it is possible to restrict an activity or resource to a particular group or grouping.



Note that the **Group** and **Grouping** restriction buttons are only available if you have groups and groupings enabled in your VLE area, respectively.

User profile

This setting determines restriction of an activity, resource or VLE area section via **User profile fields**. Choose the settings and profile fields you want to add restrictions for. You can restrict by using one of the user fields that are located in the drop-down menu, as shown below. It is recommended that you use the *Email address* field.



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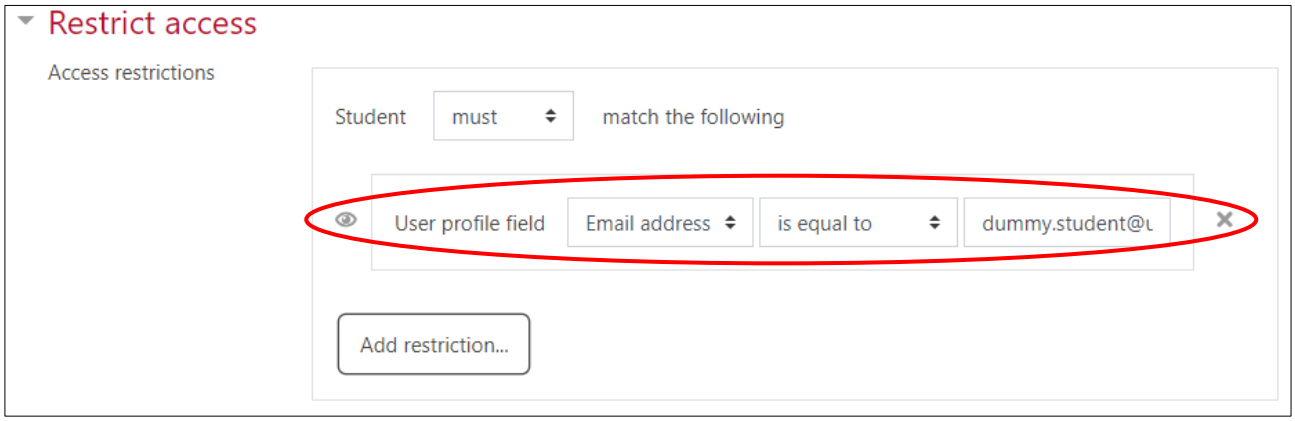
Consequently, choose one of the operators to define the relationship between the field chosen and the value entered. The operators available are:

- is equal to
- contains
- doesn't contain
- starts with
- ends with
- is empty
- is not empty



For example, if the tutor is restricting access to 'Dummy Student' only, then the field chosen has to be 'Email address', the operator has to be 'is equal to', and the value will be 'dummy.student@um.edu.mt', as shown above.

Multiple user conditions can be set to allow access to a resource or activity.

Restriction set

This allows you to add a set of complex restrictions to apply complex logic.

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