

Generating Option Blocks using VS

An updated Option Block generator is now available in VSware MIS. In developing the original feature in 2015, we tried to simplify this important process by reducing it to four simple screens. Even though we have now added a fifth screen (a Class List Manager) in this updated version, we have not over-complicated the software.

We have tried to reduce the amount of input required to generate the blocks. This feature will be available to any user logged-on in the Role of Principal. However, it can also be made available to any user by going to their profile and under “Account”, tick the box “Enable Access to Options”.

1. Student Setup

In this screen, you select the students that are to be allowed provide preferences for subjects. When you have selected the students to be involved in the process, you click on the ‘>>’ symbol and this will move the selected students to the RHS of the screen. It is very important that the drop down list for the ‘Students Choosing Subjects’ is used to select the year that these students will be selecting preferences for in Next Year’s timetable. When this entire option block process is complete, the newly created option blocks will be imported into VSware’s Timetable Construction feature.

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Students 1 of 22 selected null

1A

Caitlin Cox
Teal Dale
Sarah Devine
Luigi Frizzell
Róisín Gillen
Brandon Hill
Amy Keenaghan
Aoife Kelly
Beth Liston
Dylan McCormack
Katherine McEniff
Caoilfhinn McGonigle
Niamh Melly
Gabrielle Moore
Hilary Noone
Sarah O'Connor
Claire O'Flynn
Ryan Patterson
Elliot Stack

1B

Céslán Burke
Una Byrne
Martin Corcoran
Dallaire Deery-Browne
Oníosa Devanney
Aaron Fannon
Sean Halligan
Rachel Hill

Click after selection For Next Year Next Step >>

Students Choosing Subjects 2nd Year (JC)

Select All

Students are listed according to the filters selected in the left hand pane of the screen
We choose from the list by either of three methods - Ticking the Select All tick box,
Selecting Individual Students or by clicking on the Class Names

Note:- Under Actions in this screen, there is an option to Split the year into 2 separate
halves. This would only be done by very large schools in order to avoid creating very
long Option Blocks

2. Subject Setup

This screen allows you to set the number of preferences that you are going to accept from each student. You then set the number of Option Blocks that you wish to generate and it is this number of subjects that the student will study.

The subjects that you wish to be included as preferences are also added on this screen. Subjects can easily be added or removed as necessary. If a subject is subsequently removed after it has been selected by a student, a blank space will appear in the preferences of those students and they can then select another subject instead.

In the screenshot above, the students are being asked to select 4 preferences and they will study 3 of these subjects. All of the subjects are in one pool (or set) of subjects and this subject setup usually produces a high student satisfaction rate. Before generating option blocks using this method, it is important that students are well advised in their subject selection or some students could study an unbalanced curriculum.

If required, you can create an additional set of subjects by clicking on the Actions button and then clicking on 'Create New Subject Set'. This can be used to create a language line or perhaps a set of Science subjects to ensure that each student will study a science subject and a language. Some schools do this to ensure that their student will have a balance curriculum. The disadvantage of this method is that you are most likely to have a lower student satisfaction and in some cases, the shortage of specialised rooms could become an issue as similar subject are on at the same time. This will be discussed in more detail at the end of this guide

Clicking on 'Next Step' will move you on to the Preferences Screen.

3. Preferences Screen

In this screen, we enter the students' preferences. This has been made very simple as the students are already entered in the table and the subjects permitted are built into the dropdown list when you click on any of the preferences columns in the table. On the right hand side of this page you will see a statistical table that will automatically update as the preferences are added or modified.

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? Actions

Select Group: 2nd Year (JC)
Next Step »

Clash Matrix

	Fre	Spa	HmEc	TG	MTW	Bus	Mus	Art
Fre	34	9	11	10	8	14	9	7
Spa	9	39	10	15	13	9	12	10
HmEc	11	10	33	9	10	10	11	5
TG	10	15	9	43	13	14	9	16
MTW	8	13	10	13	40	11	9	16
Bus	14	9	10	14	11	41	9	15
Mus	9	12	11	9	9	9	34	9
Art	7	10	5	16	16	15	9	39

We have now added a feature which will allow parents to enter subject preferences for their children. This is managed by the school. Under Actions, you will see 'Publish to Parents'. This will then show a popup screen which will allow you to create a timeframe for parents to enter preferences.

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Actions

Export To Excel

Export to PDF

Publish to Parents

Select Group:

2nd Year (JC)

Student Name	#1	#2	#3	#4
Courtney Breen-Brosnan	MUS	TG	HMEC	MTW
Ceálan Burke	MTW	ART	TG	SPA
Una Byrne	HMEC	FRE	BUS	MTW
Sinead Canning	BUS	MTW	HMEC	FRE
Ciara Cassidy	SPA	FRE	TG	BUS
Mark Cassidy	BUS	SPA	HMEC	MTW
Grainne Clancy	SPA	TG	ART	MTW
Kirsty Corcoran	MTW	ART	HMEC	MUS
Martin Corcoran	FRE	TG	SPA	MTW
Caitlín Cox	ART	HMEC	FRE	MTW
Katie Curran	MUS	ART	MTW	HMEC
Teal Dale	HMEC	SPA	TG	MTW
Séan Daly	ART	BUS	MUS	SPA

Allow Parents Input

Subjects	#1	#2	#3	Total	#4	Total (Inc. Reserve)
French	10	14	10	34	17	51
Spanish	16	11	12	39	10	49
Home Economics	7	14	12	33	9	42
Technical Graphics	15	14	14	43	6	49
Materials Technology (Wood)	9	17	14	40	24	64
Business Studies	17	10	14	41	14	55
Music	11	10	13	34	11	45
Art, Craft, Design	16	11	12	39	10	49

On this popup below, you can also write an explanatory message for parents to explain the preferences procedure.

Publish Options To Parents

×

Enable access to parents to select preferences:

☒

Start Date:

End Date:

01/01/2015

27/01/2016

Custom message to appear to parents:

PLEASE NOTE:- You can use this screen to enter the preferred subjects that your son/daughter would wish to student in the next school year. Please note that the order of preference does make a difference and No.1 will be get priority over No.2 etc.

Save

Cancel

In the screen grab below, we see that the parent of Una Byrne as logged in and as entered 4 subject preferences for his daughter. The parent will see a customised message of instruction from the school. When the parent completes the preferences entry, they will receive an 'Options entry complete' confirmation message.

Student Options

PLEASE NOTE:- You can use this screen to enter the preferred subjects that your son/daughter would wish to student in the next school year. Please note that the order of preference does make a difference and No.1 will be get priority over No.2 etc. Our College will use this information in the compilation of Subject Option Blocks. We will endeavour to ensure that each student will be permitted to study their preferred subjects but we cannot guarantee this.

On the table(s) below, choose subjects in order of highest priority of preference (1, 2, etc.).

Preference Number	Subject Choice
1	HOME ECONOMICS
2	FRENCH
3	BUSINESS STUDIES
4	MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY

Options entry completed

The preferences entered by the parent will then automatically display in the preferences table on the preferences screen.

Select Group: 2nd Year (JC)

Next Step »

Student Name	#1	#2	#3	#4
Courtney Breen-Brosnan	MUS	TG	HMEC	MTW
Ceálan Burke	MTW	ART	TG	SPA
Una Byrne	HMEC	FRE	BUS	MTW
Sinead Canning	BUS	MTW	HMEC	FRE
Ciara Cassidy	SPA	FRE	TG	BUS
Mark Cassidy	BUS	SPA	HMEC	MTW
Grainne Clancy	SPA	TG	ART	MTW
Kirsty Corcoran	MTW	ART	HMEC	MUS
Martin Corcoran	FRE	TG	SPA	MTW

Subjects	#1	#2	#3	Total	#4	Total (Inc. Reserve)
French	10	14	10	34	17	51
Spanish	16	11	12	39	10	49
Home Economics	7	14	12	33	9	42
Technical Graphics	15	14	14	43	6	49
Materials Technology (Wood)	9	17	14	40	24	64

The totals for the number of main preferences (and preferences including reserves) are computed allowing you to make an informed decision on the number of classes you need to provide.

Subjects	#1	#2	#3	Total	#4	Total (Inc. Reserve)
French	10	14	10	34	17	51
Spanish	16	11	12	39	10	49
Home Economics	7	14	12	33	9	42
Technical Graphics	15	14	14	43	6	49
Materials Technology (Wood)	9	17	14	40	24	64
Business Studies	17	10	14	41	14	55
Music	11	10	13	34	11	45
Art, Craft, Design	16	11	12	39	10	49

The Clash Matrix

This matrix will provide some interesting statistics in relation to the expression of interest in individual subjects or in studying combinations of subjects. In the sample matrix shown below, we see for example that 9 students have indicated a preference for both French and Spanish. Business and Music are listed amongst the preferences of 9 different students.

Clash Matrix

	Fre	Spa	HmEc	TG	MTW	Bus	Mus	Art
Fre	34	9	11	10	8	14	9	7
Spa	9	39	10	15	13	9	12	10
HmEc	11	10	33	9	10	10	11	5
TG	10	15	9	43	13	14	9	16
MTW	8	13	10	13	40	11	9	16
Bus	14	9	10	14	11	41	9	15
Mus	9	12	11	9	9	9	34	9
Art	7	10	5	16	16	15	9	39

5 Students have selected HmEc & Art as preferences

The coloured cells which appear down the diagonal of the matrix show the total number of student indicating that subject in their preferences (not including reserve preference).

4. Option Blocks

The Option Block screen captures the information entered in the first three screens. When you first view this screen (before pressing Generate Blocks) it will display very little colour. This will change when the block generation is in progress. No blocks will be present but you will see the blank table showing Opt Block 1,2,3 etc.

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Actions

Select Group:

2nd Year (JC)

 Select Solution:

Default Solution

Generate Blocks

Next Step »

Blocks

Blocks	
Opt Block 1	
Opt Block 2	
Opt Block 3	

Class Details

Subject	Max Size	No of Classes	Preferences Total	Spaces Short
French	<div>30</div>	<div>1</div>	39	9
Spanish	<div>30</div>	<div>1</div>	37	7
Home	<div>30</div>	<div>1</div>	34	4

Students


#	Student Name	Missed	#1	#2	#3	#4
1	Courtney Breen-Brosnan	3	HMEC	TG	BUS	MUS
2	Ceálan Burke	3	ART	TG	FRE	HMEC
3	Una Byrne	3	HMEC	FRE	SPA	BUS
4	Sinead Canning	3	MTW	HMEC	ART	MUS
5	Ciara Cassidy	3	SPA	BUS	MUS	ART
6	Mark Cassidy	3	MUS	SPA	MTW	ART
7	Grainne Clancy	3	TG	SPA	MTW	ART
8	Kirsty Corcoran	3	FRE	HMEC	SPA	MTW
9	Martin Corcoran	3	TG	FRE	MTW	HMEC
10	Caitlin Cox	3	ART	TG	FRE	MUS
11	Katie Curran	3	MTW	BUS	HMEC	TG
12	Teal Dale	3	TG	ART	MUS	SPA
13	Séan Daly	3	SPA	ART	MTW	MUS
14	Cormac Davey	3	MUS	SPA	ART	MTW

When you are satisfied that you have the correct numbers of classes and that the maximum class sizes are correct, click on the “Generate Blocks” button. In the table below, we have asked the software to create 16 Classes.

Class Details

Subject	Max Size	No of Classes	Preferences Total	Spaces Short
French	30	2	39	0
Spanish	30	2	37	0
Home Economics	20	2	34	0
Technical Graphics	24	2	33	0
Materials Technology (Wood)	24	2	41	0
Business Studies	30	2	36	0
Music	24	2	43	0
Art, Craft, Design	24	2	40	0

A dialogue box will appear to show you that the blocks are being generated and you can stop this at any time by clicking on the button ‘Get Best Now’.



Scheduling

Time Elapsed: 00:16

Students missed options: 4

Get Best Now

Some solutions will be found very quickly. As the software generates, it will try to improve your solution by satisfying a higher number of students’ preferences and also trying to balance the classes if there is more than one class in any subject.

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? Actions

Select Group: 2nd Year (JC)
Select Solution: Default Solution

Generate Blocks
Next Step »

Blocks

Blocks			
Opt Block 1	2 Spa 1.1 (18)	2 HmEc 1.2 (15)	2 TG 1.3 (15)
	2 MTW 1.4 (17)	2 Bus 1.5 (16)	2 Art 1.6 (20)
Opt Block 2	2 Fre 2.1 (21)	2 Spa 2.2 (19)	2 HmEc 2.3 (19)
	2 Bus 2.4 (20)	2 Mus 2.5 (22)	
Opt Block 3	2 Fre 3.1 (18)	2 TG 3.2 (18)	2 MTW 3.3 (24)
	2 Mus 3.4 (21)	2 Art 3.5 (20)	

Students

#	Student Name	Missed	#1	#2	#3	#4
1	Courtney Breen-Brosnan	0	2 HmEc 2.3	2 TG 3.2	2 Bus 1.5	MUS
2	Ceálan Burke	0	2 Art 1.6	2 TG 3.2	2 Fre 2.1	HMEC
3	Una Byrne	0	2 HmEc 1.2	2 Fre 3.1	2 Spa 2.2	BUS
4	Sinead Canning	0	2 MTW 3.3	2 HmEc 2.3	2 Art 1.6	MUS
5	Ciara Cassidy	0	2 Spa 2.2	2 Bus 1.5	2 Mus 3.4	ART
6	Mark Cassidy	0	2 Mus 3.4	2 Spa 2.2	2 MTW 1.4	ART
7	Grainne Clancy	0	2 TG 3.2	2 Spa 2.2	2 MTW 1.4	ART
8	Kirsty Corcoran	0	2 Fre 3.1	2 HmEc 2.3	2 Spa 1.1	MTW
9	Martin Corcoran	0	2 TG 3.2	2 Fre 2.1	2 MTW 1.4	HMEC
10	Caitlín Cox	0	2 Art 1.6	2 TG 3.2	2 Fre 2.1	MUS
11	Katie Curran	0	2 MTW 3.3	2 Bus 1.5	2 HmEc 2.3	TG

The Option Blocks will appear and are colour-coded to match the colours on the spreadsheet - styled table. The teaching group codes will be given automatically and this will show the exact block and position of the class in the block.

If you examine the colours in the above screenshot, you will see that student number 3 in the table, Una Byrne will be studying Home Economics in Opt Block 1(2 HmEc 1.2); French in Opt Block 3 (2 Fre 3.1) and Spanish in Opt Block 2 (2Spa 2.2). You will also notice that 16 classes have been created in the blocks.

In the table below we show the class sizes for each subject in the blocks and it will also report how many students have missed a subject (if this has occurred)

Stats

Subjects	Missed	Class Sizes
French	0	<div>1821</div>
Spanish	0	<div>1918</div>
Home Economics	0	<div>1915</div>
Technical Graphics	0	<div>1518</div>
Materials Technology (Wood)	0	<div>2417</div>
Business Studies	0	<div>2016</div>
Music	0	<div>2221</div>
Art, Craft, Design	0	<div>2020</div>

A new feature of the software now allows you to Create Solutions/Clone Solutions while keeping previous solutions. To create a Solution or Clone, use the Actions button while viewing screen 4 (Option Blocks). When you create or clone a solution, you will then view the newly created screen. It is possible to switch between solutions using the 'Select Solution' dropdown list box. Solutions can also be removed (deleted) using the actions button. You will receive a warning if you 'Remove Solution' as this is irreversible.

Note:

Create Solution will reset the number of classes and their sizes if they have already been set.

Clone Solution will make an identical copy of the existing solution

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? Actions

Select Group: 2nd Year (JC)
Select Solution: Clone1
Generate Block

Chain #1 Blocks

Opt Block 1	2 Spa 1.1 (19)	2 Spa 1.2 (18)	2 HmEc 1.3 (16)
	2 MTW 1.4 (18)	2 Bus 1.5 (10)	2 Art 1.6 (19)
Opt Block 2	2 Fre 2.1 (20)	2 Fre 2.2 (19)	2 TG 2.3 (16)
	2 MTW 2.4 (23)	2 Mus 2.5 (21)	
Opt Block 3	2 HmEc 3.1 (17)	2 TG 3.2 (16)	2 Bus 3.3 (25)
	2 Mus 3.4 (22)	2 Art 3.5 (21)	

Students

#	Student Name	Missed	#1
1	Briana McCafferty	1	2 Mus 3.4
2	Katherine McEniff	1	2 Art 3.5
3	Megan McGloin	1	2 Spa 1.1
4	Courtney Breen-Brosnan	0	2 HmEc 1.3
5	Ceálan Burke	0	2 Art 1.6
6	Una Byrne	0	2 HmEc 3.1
7	Sinead Canning	0	2 MTW 2.4
8	Ciara Cassidy	0	2 Spa 1.1
9	Mark Cassidy	0	2 Mus 3.4
10	Grainne Clancy	0	2 TG 3.2
11	Kirsty Corcoran	0	2 Fre 2.2
12	Martin Corcoran	0	2 TG 3.2

Export to Excel
Export to PDF
Print Individual Student Options(PDF)
Print Individual Student Options(Word)
Create Solution
Clone Solution
Remove Solution

Some schools like to experiment with solutions and to view the consequences of making changes in the following areas:

- changing the number of classes to be created in a subject
- ensuring that certain classes run in the same block to allow streaming
- to ensure that some classes don't run in the same block as the two subjects involved may have only one qualified teacher.

Select Group: **2nd Year (JC)** Select Solution: **Clone1** **Generate Blocks** **Next Step >**

Blocks

Chain #1 Blocks

Block	Classes
Block 1	2 Spa 1.1 (19) 2 Spa 1.2 (18) 2 HmEc 1.3 (16) 2 MTW 1.4 (18) 2 Bus 1.5 (10) 2 Art 1.6 (19)
Block 2	2 Fre 2.1 (20) 2 Fre 2.2 (19) 2 TG 2.3 (16) 2 MTW 2.4 (23) 2 Mus 2.5 (21)
Block 3	2 HmEc 3.1 (17) 2 TG 3.2 (16) 2 Bus 3.3 (25) 2 Mus 3.4 (22) 2 Art 3.5 (21)

Students


#	Student Name	Missed	#1	#2	#3	#4
1	Briana McCafferty	1	2 Mus 3.4	2 Fre 2.1	TG	MTW
2	Katherine McEniff	1	2 Art 3.5	2 Spa 1.1	HMEC	FRE
3	Megan McGloin	1	2 Spa 1.1	2 Art 3.5	BUS	FRE
4	Courtney Breen-Brosnan	0	2 HmEc 1.3	2 TG 2.3	2 Bus 3.3	MUS
5	Ceálan Burke	0	2 Art 1.6	2 TG 3.2	2 Fre 2.1	HMEC
6	Una Byrne	0	2 HmEc 3.1	2 Fre 2.1	2 Spa 1.2	BUS
7	Sinead Canning	0	2 MTW 2.4	2 HmEc 3.1	2 Art 1.6	MUS
8	Ciara Cassidy	0	2 Spa 1.1	2 Bus 3.3	2 Mus 2.5	ART
9	Mark Cassidy	0	2 Mus 3.4	2 Spa 1.2	2 MTW 2.4	ART
10	Grainne Clancy	0	2 TG 3.2	2 Spa 1.1	2 MTW 2.4	ART
11	Kirsty Corcoran	0	2 Fre 2.2	2 HmEc 3.1	2 Spa 1.1	MTW

In the screenshot above, we have created a New Clone called 'Clone1' and manually dragged the Spanish and French classes so that each language will be in the same block. Some schools do this to allow students move between higher and ordinary classes.

When you move any of the created classes to a different block, a pin will appear. If you click on any class, the pin will also appear. This will fix these classes to this block and when you then click 'Generate Blocks' the unpinned classes are free to move wherever they wish. As you can see from the results, the solution given failed to satisfy all of the students on this occasion. 3 students missed their 3rd preference and will be granted their 4th preference instead.

5 Class Lists

In this updated version of our Subject Options Generator, we have added a Class List Manager and this works in exactly the same way as the regular Class List Manager under the 'Timetable' Tab in VSware.



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Actions?

Select Group: 5th Year (LC)Select Solution: Default SolutionSelect Block: Block1

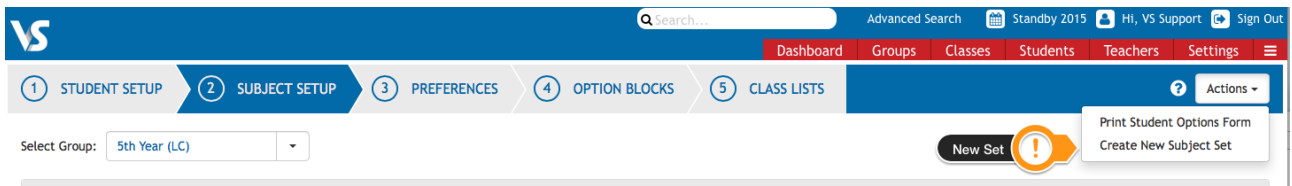
Unassigned (0)	5 Fre 1.2 (19)	5 Fre 1.3 (18)	5 Ger 1.4 (22)	5 Spa 1.5 (18)	5 Spa 1.6 (19)
Select all <input type="checkbox"/>	Select all <input type="checkbox"/>	Select all <input type="checkbox"/>	Select all <input type="checkbox"/>	Select all <input type="checkbox"/>	Select all <input type="checkbox"/>
	Jamie Duffy	Dylan Flood	Tara Fee	Michael Gilroy	Cathal Granaghan
	Cáelán Elliott	James Igoe	Tom Gilmartin	Thomas Hill	Karl Harley
	Trinity Gallagher	Darragh Kerr	Eimear Griffin	Brian Keon	Jason Harrison
	Mark Gavigan	Konrad Lipsett	John Kavanagh	Gráinne Kerrigan	William Hilley
	Shane Gormley	Emma Lowe	Oisín Lilly	Katelyn Maguire	Alana Honney
	Laura Igoe	Diarmaid McGloinHoma	Paul McAllister	Michael Matthews	Oisín Lipsett
	Connor Keaney	Conor McGowan	Laoide McCormack	Emer McGrane	Jakub Manapsal
	Aimee McDaid	Eva McGrane	Garbhán McFarland	Hannah McGuckin	Róisín McBarron
	John McGloneFalter	Teresina McKenna	Reece McGuinness	Evan Monaghan	Nithin McClay
	Shane McGuinness	Danielle Meehan	Ruth Meehan	Olivia Noone	Patrick McDonald
	Niall Nairn	Conor Noone	Mona Melly	Michelle O'Boyle	Jade McGlone

This will put you in full control over the population of the classes created by the Option Block Generator. The Class List Manager will allow you to filter to all of the blocks created.

A More Complex Subject Setup

In an earlier section we describe how some schools ask their students to select subjects from pools of similar subjects. This is to ensure a balanced curriculum for each student. In the screenshot below, there is a language pool, a science pool and then the remainder of subjects in a main pool. Please note that this more complex setup can be restrictive and will normally result in lower student satisfaction.

To begin this more complex setup, you create the new subject sets using the Actions button as in the screenshot below.



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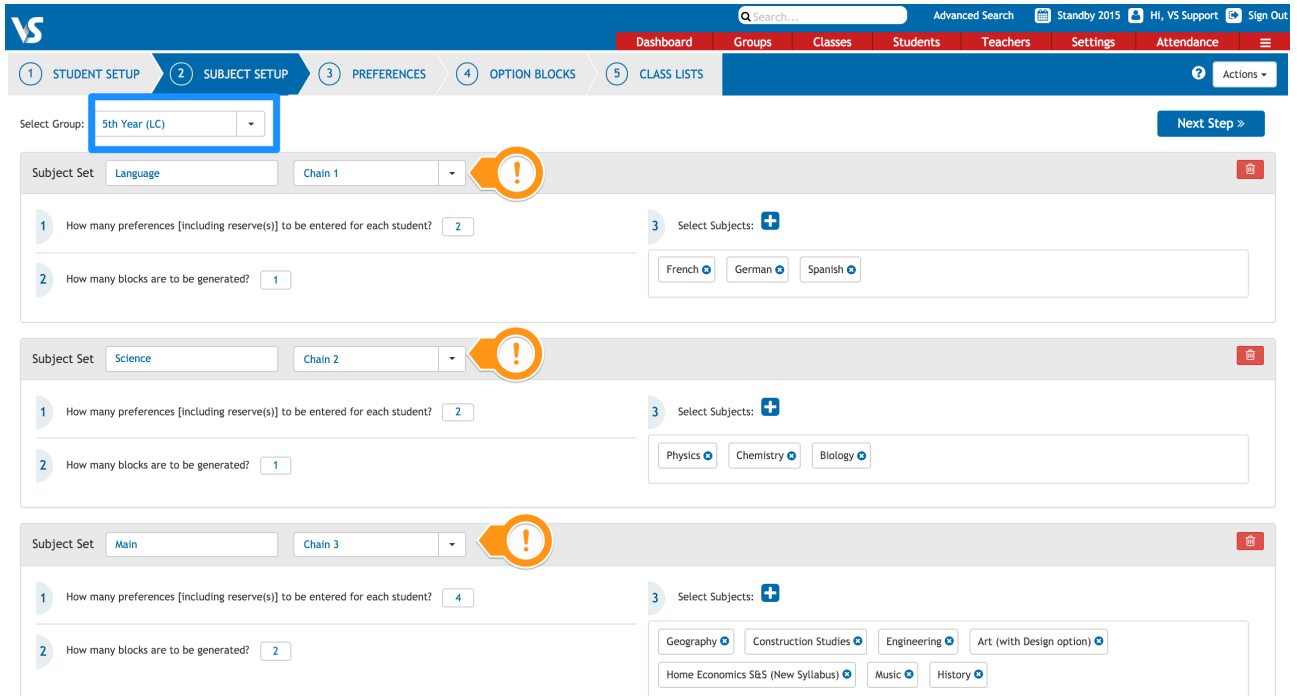
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Select Group: 5th Year (LC)

New Set

Print Student Options Form
Create New Subject Set

If you examine the numbers entered in the screenshot below you will notice that students have been asked to select preferences for 2 languages and 2 Science subjects (Pool 1 & Pool 2) and they will study 1 language and 1 science subject. They have also been asked to select 4 preferences for the remainder of the subjects and they will study 2 of these (Pool 3). That is a total of 4 subjects.



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Select Group: 5th Year (LC)

Next Step >

Subject Set: Language Chain 1

1 How many preferences [including reserve(s)] to be entered for each student? 2

2 How many blocks are to be generated? 1

3 Select Subjects: +

French German Spanish

Subject Set: Science Chain 2

1 How many preferences [including reserve(s)] to be entered for each student? 2

2 How many blocks are to be generated? 1

3 Select Subjects: +

Physics Chemistry Biology

Subject Set: Main Chain 3

1 How many preferences [including reserve(s)] to be entered for each student? 4

2 How many blocks are to be generated? 2

3 Select Subjects: +

Geography Construction Studies Engineering Art (with Design option)

Home Economics S&S (New Syllabus) Music History

When the subjects have been set up as in the screenshot above, the preferences screen will look similar to the that of the screenshot below.

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Actions

Select Group:

5th Year (LC)

Subject Set Matrices

Clash Matrices

Next Step

	Chain #1		Chain #2		Chain #3			
	Language		Science		Main			
Student Name	#1	#2	#1	#2	#1	#2	#3	#4
Jamie Duffy	FRE	SPA	PHY	CHE	HOM	ART	MUS	CONST
Cáelán Elliott	FRE	SPA	PHY	CHE	ENGR	CONST	HIS	HOM
Tara Fee	GER	FRE	PHY	BIO	ART	GEO	HOM	HIS
Dylan Flood	FRE	SPA	PHY	CHE	HIS	CONST	ART	ENGR
Trinity Gallagher	FRE	GER	CHE	PHY	CONST	GEO	HIS	MUS
Mark Gavigan	FRE	SPA	PHY	BIO	GEO	MUS	ENGR	ART

The Options Screen for this more complex subject setup looks like the screenshot below when the 'Generate Blocks' button was pressed. You can see that the creation of the language block, a science block and a main block resulted in 6 students not being allowed to study their top preferences. However, please note that the software did satisfy all of the students for the language block and the science block and those students who missed their preferences are missing their final preference in each case. Most of the students who missed their last preference did manage to get their next preference.

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1 STUDENT SETUP

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Select Group:5th Year (LC)

Select Solution:Default Solution

Generate Blocks

Next Step »

Chain #1 Blocks

Opt Block 1

5 Fre 1.1 (19)

5 Fre 1.2 (18)

5 Ger 1.3 (22)

5 Spa 1.4 (18)

5 Spa 1.5 (19)

Chain #2 Blocks

Opt Block 1

5 Phy 1.1 (18)

5 Phy 1.2 (18)

5 Che 1.3 (16)

5 Che 1.4 (17)

5 Bio 1.5 (14)

5 Bio 1.6 (13)

Chain #3 Blocks

Opt Block 1

5 ConSt 1.1 (16)

5 Engr 1.2 (23)

5 Hom 1.3 (15)

5 Mus 1.4 (24)

5 His 1.5 (18)

Opt Block 2

5 Geo 2.1 (27)

5 ConSt 2.2 (15)

5 Art 2.3 (24)

5 Hom 2.4 (12)

5 His 2.5 (18)

Subject Set

Chain

Language

Chain #1

Science

Chain #2

Main

Chain #3

Chain #1 Class Details

Students

			Chain #1		Chain #2		Chain #3	
			Language		Science		Main	
#	Student Name	Missed	#1	#2	#1	#2	#1	#2
1	Tara Fee	1	5 Ger 1.3	FRE	5 Phy 1.2	BIO	5 Art 2.3	5 Hom 1.3
2	Thomas Hill	1	5 Spa 1.4	GER	5 Phy 1.2	BIO	5 Engr 1.2	5 Art 2.3
3	Emer McGrane	1	5 Spa 1.4	FRE	5 Che 1.3	PHY	5 Geo 2.1	5 Art 2.3
4	Amy Noone	1	5 Ger 1.3	FRE	5 Bio 1.6	PHY	5 Art 2.3	5 Geo 2.1
5	Jason Reynolds	1	5 Spa 1.4	GER	5 Che 1.3	BIO	5 Geo 2.1	5 Art 2.3
6	Fionnuala Sugrue	1	5 Ger 1.3	FRE	5 Che 1.3	PHY	5 Mus 1.4	5 Art 2.3
7	Jamie Duffy	0	5 Fre 1.1	SPA	5 Phy 1.1	CHE	5 Hom 1.3	5 Art 2.3
8	Cáelán Elliott	0	5 Fre 1.1	SPA	5 Phy 1.2	CHE	5 Engr 1.2	5 ConSt 2.2
9	Dylan Flood	0	5 Fre 1.2	SPA	5 Phy 1.1	CHE	5 His 2.5	5 ConSt 1.1
10	Trinity Gallagher	0	5 Fre 1.1	GER	5 Che 1.4	PHY	5 ConSt 1.1	5 Geo 2.1
11	Mark Gavigan	0	5 Fre 1.1	SPA	5 Phy 1.1	BIO	5 Geo 2.1	5 Mus 1.4
12	Tom Gilmartin	0	5 Ger 1.3	SPA	5 Che 1.3	PHY	5 ConSt 1.1	5 Geo 2.1
13	Michael Gilroy	0	5 Spa 1.4	GER	5 Bio 1.6	CHE	5 Geo 2.1	5 His 1.5
14	Shane Gormley	0	5 Fre 1.1	GER	5 Bio 1.5	PHY	5 ConSt 1.1	5 His 2.5
15	Cathal Granaghan	0	5 Spa 1.5	GER	5 Phy 1.1	BIO	5 ConSt 2.2	5 Engr 1.2
16	Eimear Griffin	0	5 Ger 1.3	FRE	5 Phy 1.2	BIO	5 His 2.5	5 Engr 1.2
17	Karl Harley	0	5 Spa 1.5	FRE	5 Phy 1.1	BIO	5 Hom 2.4	5 Engr 1.2
18	Jason Harrison	0	5 Spa 1.5	FRE	5 Phy 1.2	CHE	5 His 1.5	5 Art 2.3
19	William Hilley	0	5 Spa 1.5	FRE	5 Che 1.3	PHY	5 Art 2.3	5 Hom 1.3
20	Alana Honney	0	5 Spa 1.5	GER	5 Phy 1.2	CHE	5 Mus 1.4	5 Hom 2.4
21	James Igoe	0	5 Fre 1.2	GER	5 Che 1.4	PHY	5 Geo 2.1	5 Hom 1.3
22	Laura Igoe	0	5 Fre 1.1	GER	5 Phy 1.2	CHE	5 Hom 2.4	5 Engr 1.2

The screenshot below shows another variation on the same subject setup. In this case please note that we have allowed the main pool of subjects to combine with the science pool by changing the main pool to Pool 2. Doing this produced the same number of blocks but in this case the language block has remained but the other three blocks are a mixture of subjects from the science and main pools of subjects.

In making this change, note that the student satisfaction is better with only 4 student now miss one of their preferences.

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1 STUDENT SETUP 2 SUBJECT SETUP 3 PREFERENCES 4 OPTION BLOCKS 5 CLASS LISTS Actions

Select Group: 5th Year (LC) Select Solution: Clone-1 Generate Blocks Next Step »

Blocks

Chain #1 Blocks

Opt Block	Subjects
1	5 Fre 1.1 (19) 5 Fre 1.2 (18) 5 Ger 1.3 (22) 5 Spa 1.4 (19) 5 Spa 1.5 (18)

Chain #2 Blocks

Opt Block	Subjects
1	5 Che 1.1 (12) 5 Bio 1.2 (13) 5 ConSt 1.3 (17) 5 Hom 1.4 (13) 5 Mus 1.5 (24) 5 His 1.6 (17)
2	5 Phy 2.1 (24) 5 Geo 2.2 (28) 5 ConSt 2.3 (15) 5 Hom 2.4 (12) 5 His 2.5 (17)
3	5 Phy 3.1 (13) 5 Che 3.2 (21) 5 Bio 3.3 (15) 5 Engr 3.4 (23) 5 Art 3.5 (24)

Subject Set

Subject Set	Chain
Language	Chain #1
Science	Chain #2
Main	Chain #2

Chain #1 Class Details

Subject	Max Size	No of Classes	Preferences Total	Spaces Short
French	30	2	37	0

Students

#	Student Name	Missed	Chain #1	Chain #2	Main	Chain #1	Chain #2	Main	Chain #1	Chain #2	Main
1	Tara Fee	1	5 Ger 1.3	FRE	5 Phy 2.1	5 Bio 1.2	5 Art 3.5	GEO	HOM	HIS	
2	Evan Monaghan	1	5 Spa 1.5	FRE	5 Che 3.2	BIO	5 Mus 1.5	ART	ConSt 2.3	HIS	
3	Almee Picken	1	5 Spa 1.5	FRE	5 Bio 1.2	CHE	5 Art 3.5	MUS	His 2.5	CONST	
4	Fionnuala Sugrue	1	5 Ger 1.3	FRE	5 Che 3.2	5 Phy 2.1	5 Mus 1.5	ENGR	HIS	ART	
5	Jamie Duffy	0	5 Fre 1.1	SPA	5 Phy 2.1	CHE	5 Hom 1.4	5 Art 3.5	MUS	CONST	
6	Cáelán Elliott	0	5 Fre 1.2	SPA	5 Phy 2.1	CHE	5 Engr 3.4	5 ConSt 1.3	HIS	HOM	
7	Dylan Flood	0	5 Fre 1.2	SPA	5 Phy 3.1	CHE	5 His 1.6	5 ConSt 2.3	ART	ENGR	
8	Trinity Gallagher	0	5 Fre 1.2	GER	5 Che 3.2	PHY	5 ConSt 1.3	5 Geo 2.2	HIS	MUS	
9	Mark Gavigan	0	5 Fre 1.2	SPA	5 Phy 3.1	BIO	5 Geo 2.2	5 Mus 1.5	ENGR	ART	
10	Tom Gilmartin	0	5 Ger 1.3	SPA	5 Che 3.2	PHY	5 ConSt 1.3	5 Geo 2.2	MUS	HOM	
11	Michael Gilroy	0	5 Spa 1.4	GER	5 Bio 3.3	CHE	5 Geo 2.2	5 His 1.6	ART	CONST	
12	Shane Gormley	0	5 Fre 1.1	GER	5 Bio 3.3	PHY	5 ConSt 2.3	5 His 1.6	ART	MUS	
13	Cathal Granaghan	0	5 Spa 1.5	GER	5 Phy 2.1	BIO	5 ConSt 1.3	5 Engr 3.4	GEO	HIS	
14	Eimear Griffin	0	5 Ger 1.3	FRE	5 Phy 2.1	BIO	5 His 1.6	5 Engr 3.4	HOM	GEO	
15	Karl Harley	0	5 Spa 1.5	FRE	5 Phy 2.1	BIO	5 Hom 1.4	5 Engr 3.4	GEO	HIS	
16	Jason Harrison	0	5 Spa 1.5	FRE	5 Phy 2.1	CHE	5 His 1.6	5 Art 3.5	ENGR	GEO	
17	Thomas Hill	0	5 Spa 1.4	GER	5 Phy 2.1	BIO	5 Engr 3.4	5 Mus 1.5	ART	HOM	
18	William Hilley	0	5 Spa 1.5	FRE	5 Che 1.1	PHY	5 Art 3.5	5 Hom 2.4	MUS	HIS	
19	Alana Honney	0	5 Spa 1.4	GER	5 Phy 3.1	CHE	5 Mus 1.5	5 Hom 2.4	HIS	ART	
20	James Igoe	0	5 Fre 1.1	GER	5 Che 3.2	PHY	5 Geo 2.2	5 Hom 1.4	ENGR	MUS	
21	Laura Igoe	0	5 Fre 1.1	GER	5 Phy 2.1	CHE	5 Hom 1.4	5 Engr 3.4	CONST	GEO	
22	John Kavanagh	0	5 Ger 1.3	SPA	5 Che 3.2	BIO	5 Mus 1.5	5 His 2.5	GEO	ENGR	
23	Conor Kavanagh	0	5 Fre 1.1	SPA	5 Bio 1.2	CHE	5 ConSt 1.3	5 Engr 3.4	HOM	GEO	