

# What Can Be Done to Improve Professional Education?



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# University Based Professional Education: Where is it Going On?

Medicine

Nursing

Social Work

School Teaching

Physiotherapy

Church Ministry

Surveying

Midwifery

Architecture

Law

Dentistry

Veterinary Medicine

Occupational Therapy

Pharmacy

Engineering

Business



# **Professional Education: Common Challenges**

- Preparing students for specific work
- Combining emphasis on theory and practice
- Shifting professional boundaries/frameworks/expectations
- Drawing upon modern educational theory
- Lack of research evidence

# **Professional Education: A Creative Challenge**

“the ways in which we currently prepare professionals for the world of work are generally limited in scope and inadequate for dealing with the change and uncertainty they encounter in contemporary professional practice”

(Dall 'Alba, 2009)



# A Tale of Two Innovative Schools



# Nottingham Vet School: Some Key Features

Paperless school  
– laptop learning

Heavy emphasis  
on work place  
learning

Reliance on  
private practices  
for placements



Little postgraduate  
support – ‘oven  
ready’ graduates

Radically different  
approach

Practical skills  
emphasis

Personal &  
professional skills  
taught for 5 years

Early clinical  
experience

# **Professional Education: Some Highly Valuable Innovations**

- Increasing the focus on practice-related learning
- Imaginative use of simulation based learning and assessment
- Giving students more responsibility for their own learning
- Moving the focus to career-long learning
- Enhancing learning from work placements
- Recognising complexities of good facilitation and mentoring
- Improving student assessment

# Veterinary work place learning

- Extra mural studies
  - Private practice, 26 weeks in holiday time
  - Relatively unstructured
- Intra mural studies
  - University hospital vs. clinical associate model
  - Structured learning
  - Assessment





# **Good Placement Learning: Key Factors**

- **Quality of Placements**
- **Integration Within Whole Course Learning**
- **Clear Specification of Learning Goals**
- **Opportunity to Personalise Learning**
- **Quality of Mentor Support**
- **Good Feedback, Reporting and Coaching**
- **Opportunities to Develop Reflective Practice**
- **Robust Assessment of Professional Practice**



# Visual Learning Across Disciplines







# Connecting Students Across The World







# Making Professional Learning More Authentic





# Improving Visualisation in Science Laboratories







# Multislide – enriching learning through the use of multiple displays





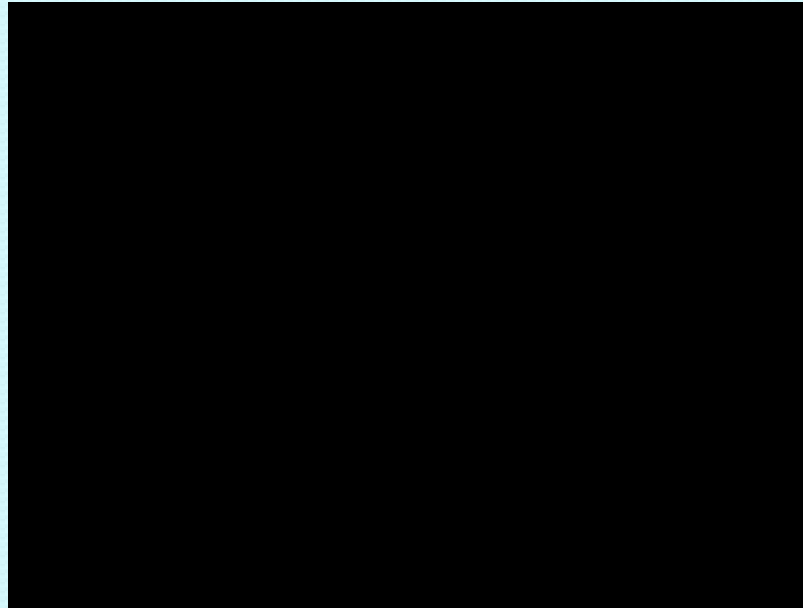
# Electronic Flipchart Thunder Wall





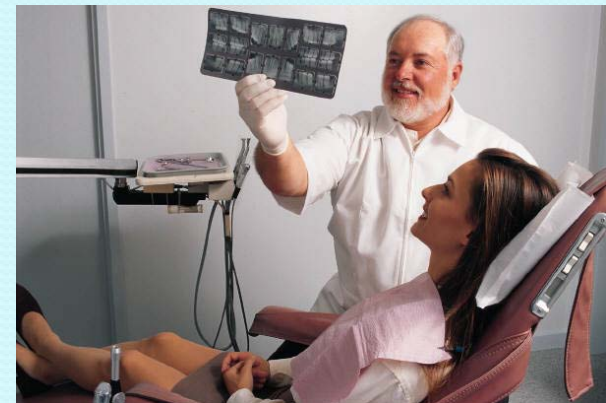
# Motivating Students to Engage in Richer Learning

Use of video diaries for assessing undergraduate geography modules





# Improving the Assessment of Dentistry Skills



# The Way Ahead

- Cross professional learning
- Critical reflection on educational approaches
- Stronger lifelong learning perspective
- Increase authenticity of professional learning
- Emphasise personal & professional skills
- Professionalise mentoring & facilitation
- Improve student assessment & feedback