# Lecture

# Educating the Educator: Lessons from the Other Side of the Whiteboard

## Dr Nina De Franco

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Veterinary professionals don’t enter the classroom to become teachers — they arrive as subject experts, armed with knowledge, but often lacking the confidence, tools, and support to teach it well. In this honest lecture, Dr Nina De Franco shares lessons from the other side of the whiteboard: as a clinical educator, observer, mentor, and leader of immersive learning in one of the UK’s largest VN training providers.

Drawing on years of working alongside new and experienced lecturers — and witnessing first-hand the patterns, pitfalls, and progress through her institution’s Observation of Teaching and Learning framework — Nina explores what it really takes to develop confident, capable educators. From managing impostor syndrome to using AI tools, real-time feedback, and personalised learning approaches, she offers practical strategies to scaffold educator growth at every stage.

This session is for anyone who teaches, supports, or leads teachers — and believes the people at the front of the room deserve just as much support as the learners they serve.

## BIO

Dr Nina De Franco BVMS MSc MCMI MRCVS

Veterinary Educator | Leader in Pedagogical Innovation | Champion of Digital Transformation in VN Education

Dr Nina De Franco is a veterinary surgeon and seasoned educator with over 15 years’ experience in veterinary nursing education. As Head of Veterinary Studies at The College of Animal Welfare, she leads within one of the UK’s largest veterinary nursing training centres, overseeing curriculum delivery and learner experience across multiple campuses.

A passionate advocate for innovation in education, Nina has pioneered the integration of immersive technologies such as Virtual Reality into VN training, creating safer, more accessible and repeatable learning environments for students. Her work focuses on personalising pedagogy through tools like group learner profiles, AI-driven scaffolding, and real-time teaching analytics.

With a background in clinical practice, a Master’s in Veterinary Education, and Chartered Manager status, Nina combines frontline insight with academic rigour and leadership expertise. Her mission is to raise standards in veterinary education, empower educators through digital tools, and future-proof the next generation of veterinary professionals.