

## What and how students want to learn

### *The New Generation – a new way of learning?*

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The International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA) is a student run, not-for-profit organization representing over 30,000 students from over 60 countries. One of its core goals is to raise the overall standard of veterinary education worldwide. IVSA works to bring veterinary students together through the exchange of ideas, knowledge and culture by way of various projects and events. As part of its mission to improve the standard of veterinary education worldwide, IVSA actively supports and enables students to enhance their education on different topics; including animal welfare and one health.

Using its students' network, a survey was conducted about students' opinions of their own education: the aim of the survey was to find out if the opinions of the students in the new generation born between 1980 and 2000, and often called 'millennials', correspond to the statements made by others about this generation. Different people (teachers, writers, politicians and parents) have different opinions about mindset and characteristics of this generation. The survey explored how 'millennials' see themselves and what are their requirements for learning

The changes in mindset and characteristics of learning may call for a change in the way they are taught. The teaching methods used for previous generations may no longer be as efficient and successful. What approaches and developments in educational methods will help the new generation to expand their potential, to be successful, and of course to learn? What do students want to see as a change in their education and how they learn?

Students have always thought about the future but nowadays focus more on what will make them happy and what job they would enjoy. The new generation is more diverse and therefore in need of more individual teaching methods than traditional, methods.

A change should be made not only in the way of teaching but also in what is to be taught. Reflecting the desire of veterinary students to be engaged in public health issues through interdisciplinary collaborations, IVSA is contributing to its members' education on public health through joining in the World Health Student Alliance and working with students of human medicine, pharmacy and dentistry.

Veterinary curricula and teaching methods differ per region, per country and even per university. IVSA wants to, through this survey, find common points for improvement and perceptions. We want to take a stand, as one global voice, and express our opinion on our education as students.

**Keywords:** IVSA – veterinary education – students – new generation – new learning methods.