

Hybrid classrooms: Tec relying on technology for going back to school



In October 2020, [Tec de Monterrey](#) set up **Hybrid Simultaneous Remote and Face-to-Face classrooms** (HPRS for their initials in Spanish), in order to **guarantee teaching and learning standards** and thereby strengthen **academic excellence**.

Víctor Gutiérrez, rector of Operations at the Tec, said that a significant **investment** has been made in these classrooms to achieve **hybrid classes**.

*“**Hybrid classes** allow a teacher to be in a **classroom** with a certain number of students, but at the same time teach other **students connected remotely**.”*

*“We’ve reconfigured **650 classrooms on all our campuses**, where we’ve invested in ambient sound, cameras, monitors, in a structure that allows us to achieve this **shared experience**,”* he said.



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Hybrid classrooms: an investment for the best education

Hybrid classrooms enable face-to-face and remote classes to be given **simultaneously**. To do this, each classroom has a **range of resources** that must include, at the very least, the following:

- **A video camera with a motion sensor** to follow professors as they teach and move around the classroom
- **A clip-on microphone** to ensure that students hear what teachers are saying
- **Two projectors** that contribute to flexibility of classes and teaching styles
- **Ambient speakers** that connect students learning remotely
- **A computer** and the **Zoom Pro** tool for teachers that allows flexibility for class exercises and teacher-student interaction



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Similarly, professors have access to information technology resources, such as the **Kaltura platform**, a tool for managing multimedia resources.

Another example is **CANVAS**, which is a platform for communication, handing in assignments and projects, and administration of the entire course.

They also have support from their campus' **Information Technology (IT)** department, who ensure that the technology doesn't fail.

In each of their sessions, they also have face-to-face and online assistants, who support them in the event of any failure, query, or technical problem.

*"We've prepared 650 of these classrooms for **high school, undergraduate, and graduate** students. Our technology is **standardized**, which will allow us to offer the **same experience at all our campuses**,"* said Elsa Romero, the national director of Infrastructure and Development.



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The Tec's distinctive use of technology

Teachers have been **trained** to ensure that classes meet Tec standards, supervised by the **Center for Teacher Development and Educational Innovation** (CEDDIE for its initials in Spanish).

This is a specialized center for teachers. Training included 5 courses, plus a “**zero class**”, in which teachers have a trial session.

*“**All this effort is for our students.** A huge effort has been made by the Tec and its teachers, who have received training, redesigned their classes, and learned new ways of teaching,”* pointed out Verónica Rangel, director of Academic Services for the Western Region.

*“The **use of technology** has been a **distinguishing factor of the Tec** in all our educational models and in our history in general. The pandemic has helped us to consolidate this model of innovation that we’re going to keep, because it improves collaboration,”* said Rangel.

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Since the beginning of 2021, Tec de Monterrey has opened voluntary academic and recreational activities on 16 campuses and in 8 high schools. The [HyFlex+Tec](#) hybrid format model was set up on 6 campuses.

In line with advice from state and federal authorities, a new pilot program began in March 2021 to **increase the number of voluntary in-person activities** for students.

These activities include laboratory practice, cultural activities, sports, emotional counseling, and leadership. **Sessions are already being given in the HPRS classrooms.**

By the beginning of June 2021, Tec de Monterrey will have opened up **at least 90% of its campuses.**

“Rest assured that we’ve taken care of every detail to guarantee the level of education to which you’re accustomed,” Rangel concluded.



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<https://tec.mx/en/news/national/education/heres-new-immersive-classroom-experience-tec-de-monterrey>