

# Mexican one of 50 selected by USC to study cinema



**Diego José Mercado**, a recent graduate of PrepaTec Saltillo who is passionate about cinema, has managed to become one of the 50 students admitted to the [University of Southern California \(USC\)](#) to study **film and television production**.

**George Lucas**, creator and director of the [Star Wars](#) franchise, is the school's most notable **alumnus**.

According to **The Hollywood Reporter**, USC has ranked among the best institutions in the world in this field for 10 years.



width="900" loading="lazy"> **Diego's work**

His newest short film is titled "[Point and Shoot](#)," which he had to prepare for admission to USC and which led him to being **admitted**.

*"I've made various short films throughout my life. I started when I was in elementary school, so I have lots of them. The most recent ones are definitely the best, and the ones that helped me with the admission process,"* he highlighted.

The **19-year-old** student was also accepted at five other universities abroad, including the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and the Pratt Institute in New York.

### **The best film school**

The USC **School of Cinematic Arts**, also known as **SCA**, is the **oldest, largest, and most reputable** school of its kind in the United States.

*"I'm excited to go to Los Angeles because it's the center of the industry that I love so much. I'm also excited about finally being able to explore this passion of mine full time,"* said Diego.



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### **Learning from scratch**

***“I’m really proud of myself because most of what I’ve learned has been self-taught, exposing myself to and familiarizing myself with cinema and my favorite films,”*** he said.

The student added that what helped him learn was **reading** about cinema and **watching tutorials** on YouTube, as well as **practicing** and making short films with the people and equipment available.



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Diego said that this was a **special short film**, since he had to figure out how to make it in the middle of a **pandemic**, without a lot of **locations or actors** at his disposal.

*“Those limitations helped me to move my idea forward with what I did have available, such as my friends, my home, and my family,”* said the PrepaTec graduate.

It’s worth noting that Diego is also talented in **photography and editing** his pictures. He shares his work on his [betterwithpicture](https://www.instagram.com/p/CKAYFBVBlie/?utm_medium=copy_link) Instagram account.

[https://www.instagram.com/p/CKAYFBVBlie/?utm\\_medium=copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/p/CKAYFBVBlie/?utm_medium=copy_link)

### **His future goals**

In the future, Diego sees himself working in the industry he’s always admired, **writing and directing** his own films.

*“I think they accepted me at this school because **they saw potential in me**, and because I’m very clear about my goals within cinema. **I can’t wait** for cinema to stop being a hobby and to start **telling my own stories**,”* he concluded.

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