

Tec Rector: Universities to become multidiverse after covid



[David Garza](#), rector and executive president of [Tec de Monterrey](#), explained that **universities** will go through a series of **innovations** after the **COVID-19 pandemic**, including new **hybrid learning models**, the use of **immersive technology**, and new partnerships.

*“The way I see it, universities are going to **transition to multidiversity**,”* said Garza during the **Triennial Conference** of the [International Association of University Presidents \(IAUP\)](#).

*“A key element will be that **post-pandemic opportunities** will definitely be **driven by technology**, learning analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality, and immersive technologies,”* he said.

Tec de Monterrey participated in this conference held by the **IAUP**, an international association of university directors, at which rectors and leaders reflected on important **changes** in **education**.



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From university to “multiversity”

In the talk “**Innovation/Technology** during the pandemic and post-pandemic period”, Garza explained that **universities** will be **transformed** by incorporating new models, work schemes, and technologies.

As part of this transformation, the rector mentioned that **teaching** and **learning** will evolve to include not only face-to-face but also **asynchronous** and **synchronous hybrid** schemes.

*“Nor will it be just **4 years** of **immersion**; you’ll be able to **start and finish courses** at universities at different times under different models. This gives us the **opportunity** to reach **new audiences**, not just **traditional students**,”* he added.

Similarly, he also mentioned that education will focus not only on **academic areas**, but also on other topics such as **integrated wellbeing**.

In addition, he explained that there will be **increased collaboration** between **universities** and faculties in other parts of the world, as well as **partnerships** with other **organizations**.

*“There will not only be interactions between universities but also between **universities, companies, and organizations** to create new experiences,”* he said.



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Challenges to education brought by the pandemic

Before the pandemic, **Tec de Monterrey** was already using technologies such as [holographic telepresence](#) and **virtual reality**. However, Garza said that the **crisis had accelerated** these changes.

*“Even though we had had **previous experiences** with technology, we knew this was different. It required **innovation, adaptation, and flexibility.**”*

One of the main challenges that Garza mentioned during the talk was **continuity of operations** related to the Tec’s educational mission.

*“We have given around **2 million online sessions** so far as part of our **educational mission.**”*

*“Something that we discovered very early on was that **continuity** of courses **wasn’t enough.** We’re also trying to provide continuity to our students’ **university experience,**”* explained Garza.

Given this, the director explained that **student** activities such as **sports, art, and leadership groups** came together in an **online model** for students called **LiFE@Home. Taking Care of Your Mind** was also created to improve the Tec community’s **mental health.**



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The future of post-pandemic education

Garza said that the pandemic had caused **substantial changes** in **society**, as well as in the **remote economy**, the **green economy**, new **learning gaps**, and even in emotional and social areas.

*“The way I see it, **disruption** was already on its way **before the pandemic** in the form of Artificial Intelligence, automation, and the fourth industrial revolution.*

*“Then came the **pandemic** and these 2 forces **collided** to create a ‘**before COVID**’ and an ‘**after COVID**’. We’re currently **experiencing the ‘during COVID’ period**,” said Garza.*

He added that one of the **challenges** will be to provide **education** to students who come from **different backgrounds**.

*“To give you an idea, we **receive students** from around **500 different high schools**. How will these new students differ from the ones we traditionally receive each year?*

*“What are their **expectations**, their **ambitions**, their values? **We must adapt** to many different situations”, he mentioned.*

*“These 2 forces (**disruption and pandemic**) **collided** and created a ‘**before COVID**’ and an ‘**after COVID**’. We’re currently **experiencing the ‘during COVID’ period**.”*

Garza Salazar explained that education will have to **include technology** as part of the **teaching and learning** process, as well as **pedagogical models** that seek to solve **new challenges**.

The **Tec** is already working on including learning management systems, simulation, and remote control of laboratories, as well as **blockchain, augmented reality at home, and adaptive learning**.

*“We’re currently preparing to go back to a **hybrid operation**. About [600 classrooms have been equipped](#).*

*“We’re also preparing groups that are only **in-person, hybrid** groups, and some **online** groups with synchronous and asynchronous models. We’re currently **testing these formats**,” he concluded.*

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<https://tec.mx/en/news/national/education/hybrid-classrooms-tec-relying-technology-going-back-school>

About the international conference

IAUP is a non-governmental organization that organizes a triennial conference to discuss important **changes in education**.

On this occasion, it was held online from **July 29 to 31**, allowing leaders to discuss **best practices** and get the **opportunity to network and develop partnerships**.

The **2021** conference focused on the **priorities for higher education in the post-pandemic world**, big challenges for higher education, **innovation**, and **inclusion**.

Speakers included presidents and members of universities such as **Northwestern** in China, **Arizona State University, UNAM** and **Tec de Monterrey**.