

# She didn't give up: full Tec scholarship and going to Amazon Germany



When she was in high school, **Lizzie Vázquez** was determined to learn a **third language, German**. In addition to being an **excellent student**, she **volunteered** in soup kitchens for children and nursing homes in her free time.

It was around this time that her life took a 180-degree turn, when her family began to experience **financial problems**, but neither she nor her parents gave in to the hardship.

Her efforts to be well prepared and her mission to help others led to her obtaining a **full scholarship (Leaders of Tomorrow)** from **Tec de Monterrey**, becoming an **international student**, and being recruited by **Amazon Germany** in the field of **logistics**.

In an interview with **CONNECTA**, the 22-year-old shares how she achieved her goals through an attitude of not giving up on challenges, such as when her family **lost their home** because they could no longer afford it just before **she decided to study at the Tec**.

*“An eviction notice came, saying **we had three days to leave**. Right then I realized that the situation was bad. **How could I tell my dad that I wanted to study at the Tec if there was no way to afford it?**” she recalls.*



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### **Amazon Germany found her on LinkedIn**

At that time, Lizzie and her family were urgently looking for a **new home**. Today, **she is again looking for a home**, but this time **in Germany** thanks to a professional opportunity.

*“The focus (of my studies) is on Logistics and the Supply Chain, so **my intention was to work at companies like [Amazon](#)**“.*

She never imagined that **keeping her LinkedIn profile updated** would open the doors to **Amazon Germany**, a company she will join between **January and March 2022**.

Being an engineering student **about to graduate** with knowledge of logistics, international experience in Germany, and a command of the language was what **attracted a recruiter and led to her being offered a job**.

*“The position is called Graduate Area Manager. I’ll be in charge of a team of operators, and we’ll be in charge of orders and **supervising** that they’re **sent to the distribution centers and reach the final customer on time**.*

*“I like Amazon because even though it’s a **global company**, it still has that **essence of a startup**, of technology, and of seeing how to automate distribution centers,” she says.*

***“The most valuable thing (...) is that there are people who still believe in dreams. When you ask for support, they believe in your ability to achieve.”***



width="900" loading="lazy"> **“We either paid for the house or for food”**

Lizzie still remembers how her mom gave her a shot of encouragement to study at **Tec de Monterrey** when she asked her where she would like to do her professional studies.

*“You know I always wanted to (study at) the Tec, but **the situation is difficult,**’ I told my mom.”*

The young woman from Monterrey knew about the Tec because her father had had the opportunity to **study at the institution on a scholarship**. However, for various reasons, **he had to abandon his studies**.

At that time, her **father had started a new business** after losing his job, so the family’s economy wasn’t stable yet. They even sold their cars and went into debt to get by.

*“We either paid for the house or for food,” she says.*

Lizzie mentions that there was a moment of **silence**. Finally, her mother looked at her and spoke these words that are engraved in her heart:

*“Well, **let’s see what we can do, dear...** Just as you won a scholarship to study high school, let’s see what we can do to get **a scholarship to study at the Tec.**”*

Despite her family’s difficult situation, Lizzie kept her zeal for **volunteering** and kept up her **excellent grades** so she could continue to shine as a high school student.



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### **Losing a house, but winning a scholarship to the Tec**

Out of **12,000** applicants, **she was one of the 200 young people selected for the Leaders of Tomorrow (LDM) scholarship.**

This is a **Tec de Monterrey** program that supports talented young people to **study on full scholarships at the institution** because of their **talent and social leadership**, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

*“Thank God a couple who found out about our situation supported us with a house they had nearby.”*

Already more at peace in that respect, **Lizzie** fulfilled all the requirements to end up shortlisted for this scholarship.

She remembers the day she checked the results to find out who would make the **fourth cohort of the program.**

The results page said “Accepted,” and she began to **cry with emotion.** She then looked for **her parents to share the news.**

*“My dad (later) said to me, ‘Did you realize that what you gained with the scholarship is what we lost with the house?’ God always finds a way to reward you in some way, but He always rewards you,”* recalls Lizzie, her eyes welling up with emotion.

She also received a **distinction from the Monterrey businessman Eduardo Garza T. Fernández**, who later supported her so that she could have an **international experience**.

*“My dad (later) said to me, ‘Did you realize that what you gained with the scholarship is what we lost with the house?’”*



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### **Knocking on doors to fund her exchange program**

Her parents instilled in her the value of education. Lizzie had already managed to study at the Tec and was willing to take advantage of all the opportunities she had to grow, such as having an **international experience** despite the challenge of financing it.

She was accepted to study at one of **Germany’s most prestigious universities**, the [Technical University of Munich \(TUM\)](#).

*"I knew it **meant a lot of money**. The German embassy asks you for a balance of **800 euros for each month you're going to be in Germany**, and I was going to be there for **10 months**," she said.*

After taking several German exams, she was selected for a scholarship from the [German Academic Exchange Service](#) (DAAD), which covered half of it. **The challenge was to complete the other half.**

**The key was María Musi**, Leaders of Tomorrow funds collaborator. She advised her with her crowdfunding campaign and encouraged her to go to the businessman **Eduardo Garza T. Fernández**, founder of [Frisa Industries](#) and her benefactor in the **LDM** scholarship.

*"She said, 'Let's see how we can get to him.' I sent him a video about what his support would mean. Then Musi called me and said, '**Eduardo Garza is going to support you again.**' I thought, 'God sent me an angel to help me with my studies.'"*

And so, the student arrived in **Germany** in September 2020 after overcoming several more challenges due to the **COVID-19 pandemic**. In Germany, she was a team representative in a **global business competition** at **TUM**.

*"It was a challenge because there were **seminars completely in German**. Companies gave workshops and we had to present projects in the language."*

### **"A Jack-of-all-trades" in philanthropy**

Lizzie was used to **doing things for others** from a young age. She always liked to participate in different support activities and being *"a Jack-of-all-trades,"* as her mother called her.

*"I've always done volunteer things. For example, I liked going on **church missions**; I helped out a lot at one **soup kitchen for children**, helping them organize things for **Children's Day or Christmas**; and I also went to **nursing homes** a lot.*

*"I also participated on committees in high school. I **organized fairs to raise funds** for the benefit of some cause," she said.*

One of the factors that also led her to receiving the **Leaders of Tomorrow** scholarship was being a young woman who wanted to have a **social impact in her community**, and she continues to have an impact by promoting the **Leader-to-Leader** scholarship.

*"It's a scholarship in which **the same leaders** help and do activities to **raise funds to provide one more scholarship to another student**.*

In another of her facets, she has been an **intern and collaborator at the Eugenio Garza Lagüera Institute of Entrepreneurship** and is an ambassador of the **Tec** in the [Babson Collaborative Student Network](#), a network of students from all over the world who **promote entrepreneurship among young people**.

***“The best things come when you give up fear. There’s always going to be another bigger fear (...) but it’s something you have to overcome to grow.”***

**“If it can exist in your mind, it can exist in your world.”**

Today, one semester away from graduating as an engineer from the Tec in June 2022, Lizzie remains **firm in pursuing her dreams.**

*“I’ve always thought that **when you put your heart into things**, you set it in mind **and fight for it, and sooner or later it pays off.** If it can exist in your mind, it can exist in your world,”* Lizzie said.

*“The **biggest obstacle** has been the clash of decisions or **knowing what to sacrifice.** At times, you sacrifice parties, but also at other times, for example, I was in Germany when **my grandmother died.** It was an internal conflict because I wanted to be with my family,”* she recalls.

Lizzie also **recommended coping with fears** and **doing everything you can to reach your goals.**

*“**The best things come when you give up fear...** There’s always going to be another bigger fear. I was scared the first time I spoke in German with my first client, and I know that living there alone may be scary, but **it’s something you have to overcome to grow.**”*

*“I think **the Tec opened many doors for me** beyond just a full scholarship. **The education it gives you makes you feel very prepared.** In addition, **student life allows you to discover who you are,** whether in student groups, culture, or sports.”*

Lizzie **thanked** all the **people** who have **believed in her.**

*“For me, **the most valuable thing (...)** is **that there are people who still believe in dreams.** When you ask for support, they believe in your ability to achieve,”* she concluded.

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