

# Tec's project Global Shared Learning Classroom receives world award



**Global Shared Learning Classroom (GSL Classroom)**, the initiative from [Tec de Monterrey](#) that promotes **international experiences in a remote format**, has been recognized by [Universitas 21](#).

*“Receiving the **U21 Award 2022** proves to us that foreign universities find the **GSL Classroom** initiative highly innovative and that the positive impact it is having on students from the Tec and partner universities is being recognized,”* said **José Manuel Páez**, Vice-Rector for International Affairs.

The international organization recognized the Tec and the **team of people** responsible for developing this program, in which students from the Tec and international universities take part. It won the award for its high level of scalability.

*“It’s **part of the Tec’s DNA** for us to work as a team. Our achievements **happen because we know how to combine our talents**,”* shared Patricia Montañó, International Innovation and Networks Director.

**Universitas 21** is a network of 28 international universities that, according to its website, “share a common belief in the **value of collaboration and internationalization**.”

Some of the **educational institutions** that form part of **Universitas 21** are universities such as UC Davis, The University of Melbourne, the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, and Tec de Monterrey.

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## **U21 Awards recognize scalability of GSL Classroom**

According to the [official website](#) for the awards, the **U21 Awards are designed to recognize, celebrate, and publicize the achievements of individuals** or teams whose **work has furthered the network's principles of internationalization.**

**Patricia Montaña** explained that **GSL Classroom** has been **recognized** due to the **scalability offered** by the initiative, which provides students with international experience programs without having to travel and has to date impacted 9,000 students from Tec de Monterrey and partner universities.

The **GSL Classroom** initiative has also **created a community of 300 professors from 30 countries** who participate in the program. These professors **don't just teach classes**, but also promote **joint research** and **publication**.

The **team** from the **Vice Rectory for International Affairs at the Tec** who **received the award** consists of:

- *Gisselle Morales - Director of Global Shared Learning*
- *Gloria Alicia Chapa - International Programs Specialist*
- *Rosa Gabriela Méndez - International Programs Specialist*
- *Ricardo Lyle - International Programs Specialist*
- *Marlene del Toro - Online Internationalization Specialist*
- *Karen Margarita Álvarez - Online Internationalization Specialist*
- *Arturo de León - Online Internationalization Specialist*
- *Gabriela María Salazar - Online Internationalization Specialist*
- *Laura Monserrat Balandrano Uresti - Online Internationalization Specialist*

Equipo responsable de la iniciativa width="900" loading="lazy">

The **International Innovation and Networks Director** from the Tec shared that **the nomination process** primarily consists of **being a member of the organization**. This award came about from a nomination.

*"We nominated ourselves because we recognize the work we're doing. Also, because partner universities such as [UC Davis](#) suggested we put ourselves forward,"* said Montaña.

She said that the Tec's international partner institutions are surprised by its **capacity to apply GSL Classroom programs and duplicate them**, as well as how so many students have come in such a short time.

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She recalled that the Tec was looking for **alternatives** before the **COVID-19 pandemic** to offer **options for internationalization to students** who couldn’t travel for financial or personal reasons. Montaña said that the pandemic had made this accelerate and grow.

*“This goes beyond **international volumes**. I believe that this achievement is a very important reminder that working on good ideas requires knowledge of how to communicate them and teamwork,”* stressed Montaña.

Immersive Hall en el Tec de Monterrey width="900" loading="lazy">

### **The GSL Classroom vision**

The initiative **was born in 2018** under the name Global Classroom, spearheaded by the **Vice Rector’s Office for International Affairs at the Tec**.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, its importance increased in **2020** as a **project capable of offering international academic experiences** to the Tec’s undergraduate students.

The **pillars** of GSL Classroom **can be found in the use of technology** to bring the Tec’s international partners into the classroom and offer international experiences to students from the Tec and partner universities.

Its 2022 version **has received 198 proposals from professors to offer projects within GSL Classroom**, as well as suggestions for subjects from the **Schools of Business (EN) and Humanities and Education (EHE)**.

GSL Classroom **offers** a broad range of options, including **full semesters** in which **students take a course with foreign professors and students**, weeks of **videoconferences**, or **multicultural seminars**. Some research professors even get students involved in their **research projects**.

*“The **Tec** has to **work** every day **to achieve suitable international representation** and keep it **relevant and current**”* concluded Patricia Montaña.

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<https://conecta.tec.mx/en/news/national/institution/global-shared-learning-tecs-international-experiences-home>