

# Panel shares how to develop new competencies with Tec21 Model



Participants on the **QS In Conversation** panel shared their thoughts on how universities can collaborate to teach **new competencies** that **employers** are looking for and thus create further **job opportunities**.

**Ignacio de la Vega**, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, Faculty, and Internationalization at [Tec de Monterrey](#), shared details about the **Tec21 Model** during the discussion *Developing New Competencies for Students in the 21st Century*.

De la Vega was joined by **Patricia Stuart**, Vice President of the **University of Lima**, and **Mercedes Mateo Díaz**, Education Division Chief at the **Inter-American Development Bank**. Afifah Darke, Deputy Editor at QS, was the moderator.

The panel took place on June 22 and was broadcast via video conference.

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## Sharing the Tec21 Model experience

The panelists discussed how the **COVID-19 pandemic** has affected what employers require of recent graduates.

They noted that **recruiting requirements** over the last two years have included **skills** that many students aren't fully trained in.

Ignacio de la Vega pointed out that the **Tec21 Model** helps students with skills development.

*“Our **Tec21 Model** is designed to help our graduates **develop the necessary competencies** for their industry and their discipline,” said De la Vega.*

The **Tec21 Model** is based on **challenge-based learning** with **flexibility, inspiring professors,** and a **memorable student experience.**

*“Our **Tec21** model is designed according to skills to help our graduates develop the necessary competencies for their industry and their discipline.”*

*“The purpose of our institution is to foster a **conscious integration** of knowledge, abilities, attitudes, and values that allow our students to **successfully confront** structured, complex, and changing situations,” said De la Vega.*

*“It’s a **combination** of **disciplinary knowledge and skills** that we need in order to succeed,” he added.*

They noted that **being able to learn how to learn** is a key skill for **adapting** to this **new way of learning**, which is what the job market requires of new graduates.

*“In order to learn, you need to figure out how to use the knowledge you already have to acquire new skills that respond to the shifting needs that arise,” said Stuart.*

Ignacio de la Vega width="900" loading="lazy">

## **Synergy between universities and enterprise**

The second topic of interest discussed by the panel was finding a way for **higher education institutions** and **businesses** to work together to close the **emerging skills gap.**

De la Vega explained that the Tec21 Model puts faculty together with companies, startups, governments, and NGOs, among others, to **design the challenges** that students will solve throughout the academic period.

*“This new (Tec21) model forces us to **discover and understand the new role of business in society**, so that faculty can design and develop a challenge for students to work on as a team with the company over five weeks,” De la Vega explained.*

The Tec’s Associate Provost pointed out that students need to acquire skills through real-world challenges.

*“As a professor of entrepreneurship, the entrepreneurial mindset, social intelligence, citizenship, and ethical values, I think one of the main parts of our institutional vision is **human flourishing with cross-cutting skills** that are subject to change,” he added.*

*“One of the main parts of our Tec vision is **human flourishing with cross-cutting skills that are subject to change.**”*

They said that we are now running a **race against time**, since the environment hasn't changed much due to a disconnect between how we're living today and society's level of education.

*“The slow increase in productivity from higher education is due to the fact that **it reacts slower than entrepreneurial innovation**. We need to support higher education institutions so that they can **diversify** these high-quality programs,” said Mateo Díaz.*

*“How **universities and businesses can work together** to create more job opportunities and the challenges facing the higher education industry are **very important and timely topics**,” concluded Darke, the moderator.*

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