

Tec Rector to be new chair of global university network U21



[David Garza](#), Rector and Executive President of [Tec de Monterrey](#), has announced his designation as the next chair of global university network [Universitas 21 \(U21\)](#) from **May 2025**.

Garza will **become the first Latin American chair** in the history of U21, which consists of **29 universities from 19 countries** in Europe, Asia, the Americas, Africa, and Oceania.

The rector broke the news to the Tec community during a [live broadcast](#) from this city in the south of China.

*“As well as being a **great responsibility and a privilege**, this is above all a **great source of pride** for our country, for our region, and especially for Tecnológico de Monterrey.*

*“I feel very proud of our institution for being given this great opportunity. It’s something that lines up very neatly with **Tec de Monterrey’s internationalization strategy**,”* said the rector.

Watch this interview with Rector David Garza from Hong Kong (in Spanish):

<https://live.tec.mx/davidgarza/videos/u21>



Announcement boosts Tec's internationalization

The rector explained that his appointment as the next chair of U21 strengthens the **Tec's internationalization efforts** and presents an opportunity for bolstering **international collaboration** and promoting the **exchange of knowledge and experiences**.

*"We've said that one of the priorities has to do with the institution's **internationalization efforts** and gives us the opportunity to forge **new agreements, projects, and initiatives**."*

*"As we're living in a world of major challenges: climate change, artificial intelligence, social challenges, and geopolitics, this **an opportunity for learning and sharing best practices**,"* he added.

Garza emphasized that this appointment is an opportunity for the Tec to collaborate with **universities of global prestige**.

Moreover, these collaborations open up opportunities to promote **student mobility and research for professors** with foreign universities.

*"We're entering a phase in which the Tec has been recognized in the area of **internationalization** due to **student mobility**, and that's going to continue."*

*"However, the moment has now come for the Tec to be recognized for being a **more international institution**,"* said the rector.

“This is a great source of pride for our country, for our region, and especially for Tecnológico de Monterrey.” - David Garza

Making announcement at annual U21 meeting

As part of the process, Garza assumed the **deputy chairship** of this organization during the **U21 Annual Network Meeting and Presidential Symposium** held in **Hong Kong** from April 24 to 25.

From 2024 to 2025, the Tec’s rector will be **Deputy Chair**, and he will then be **Chair** from 2025 to 2027.

After 18 years of being a member of the **U21 Network**, David Garza was invited to join the executive committee in 2022.

*“They invited me to join the **executive committee** in 2022, which gave me the opportunity to collaborate more closely with colleagues who are making decisions about the future of the network, projects, and initiatives that need to be developed,”* he added.

*“Why did they look to **Tecnológico de Monterrey**? It has to do with our participation in the student and researcher network, as well as our institution’s evident prestige.”*

The U21 Annual Network Meeting and Presidential Symposium held in Hong Kong with the theme **“Global Universities and the Workforce of the Future”** brought together presidents and prominent representatives of the 29 universities in the network.

This event provided a platform for discussing **urgent topics**, addressing **future challenges** in higher education, and highlighting achievements.

New challenges, collaborations, and service

For the Tec’s rector and executive president, this new leadership position entails **challenges, collaborations, and an opportunity to serve**.

*“It’s a position in which I’ll be performing a service that has to do with coordination and the best possible course for **all members of the network to achieve our common goals**.”*

*“We’re going to be collaborating with other foreign universities on **more challenging projects with even greater impact, which are chiefly global in nature**,”* he remarked.

One of the advantages of these collaborations is implementing practices in the Tec that not only benefit the student community but also make an **impact on society**.

<https://twitter.com/u21news/status/1783504468383850781>

*“I’ve heard about **ideas and best practices** from elsewhere and realized that we can implement them at the Tec.*

*“I believe it’s going to be an opportunity for **greater collaboration**, an opportunity for **greater international visibility** for our institution, and an opportunity to learn about and discover best practices that we can incorporate,” he said.*

What’s more, he explained that these opportunities **transcend academia**, as they are to do with global challenges such as **sustainability, climate change, and technological progress**.

*“How can we contribute to capitalizing on opportunities and **mitigating the challenges of these big dilemmas** and opportunities that are coming to our world?”*

*“By doing so with **an impact that is not only local but also global**, with the collaboration we’re going to have with different colleagues,” he said in an interview.*



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Tec’s participation in global organizations

Besides this new appointment, Garza participates on the boards of other international academic organizations, such as the **Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU)** and the **Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)**.

The Tec is also a member of other **networks** such as the [Worldwide Universities Network](#) (WUN), [CINDA](#), [La Triada](#), and the [Hemispheric University Consortium](#) (HUC).

Tec de Monterrey has signed **agreements with more than ten Top 200 institutions** and universities around the world and about fifty percent of its **scientific publications** are made in **international collaborations**.

*“During our 80th anniversary, we said that Tecnológico de Monterrey was from Monterrey for Mexico, but the time has now come for **Tecnológico de Monterrey to be from Mexico for the world**,”* said Garza.

“The time has come for Tecnológico de Monterrey to be from Mexico for the world.” - David Garza

About U21

Universitas 21 is a **global network** in which 29 leading universities from 19 countries around the world share a common goal: **research, educational innovation, and student experience**.

*“It’s a **very prestigious** network that was formed in 1997. If you look at the members of this network, more than **85 percent of them** are **universities that are in the top 200 around the world**.*

*“More than **65 percent of them** are **in the top 100 universities** around the world. Although it’s a global network that focuses on internationalization, it understands internationalization in the broadest sense,”* said the rector.

Here are some of the **projects and events** that this network has promoted:

- **Researcher Engagement Meeting** - *Co-creating the Future: Research-Intensive Universities in the Age of AI, Regional Alliances, and Knowledge Engagement*
- **Early Career Researcher workshop**, which aims to enhance international networking and encourages the development of interdisciplinary collaborative research.
- **Educational Innovation Symposium: Scoping the Future in Higher Education: Transition or Transformation?**
- **Sustainable Micro-internships** for students
- **Leaders of the Future Award** for students
- **Real Impact on Society Award** for students

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