

From satellite to VR: 30 years of digital experiences at the Tec



From the first Internet connections to virtual reality.

Tec de Monterrey celebrates 30 years of improving student learning and teacher performance through digital experiences and distance-learning courses, the first of them in 1989.

Since then, the Tec has **implemented the latest technologies of their time**, such as satellite transmissions, Internet courses, apps and virtual reality.

Beatriz Palacios, Director of Educational Innovation at the Tec, spoke to **CONNECTA** about the search to transform education with the newest technologies of each time.

Innovaciones educativas. width="900" loading="lazy">

***“We capitalize on the innovations** or innovative products on the market and we organize them into something that allows us to give academic experiences and solutions,” she said.*

*“Our long-term goal is to be able to **continue to exploit more technological elements** that actually innovate on the classroom,” she added.*

In recent years, **the use of technology has been a fundamental part of implementing the [Tec21 Model](#)**.

This model is **based on challenges**, with **flexible** learning, **inspirational professors** and a **memorable university experience**, which came into **full effect** in **August 2019**.

La realidad virtual ha sido parte de la innovación educativa del Tec. width="1344" loading="lazy">

THIRTY YEARS OF INNOVATION IN EDUCATION

CONECTA presents you with some of the **history of the Tec's Educational Innovation area**:

La computadora que se utilizó para la primera conexión a Internet en Latinoamérica. width="600" loading="lazy">

THE FIRST CONNECTIONS

In 1986, the Monterrey and Mexico City Campuses joined **BITNET (Because It's Time Net)** together with 450 universities and research centers around the world.

And in 1988, the [Tec also became the first academic institution in Latin America to have Internet access](#) by connecting via **Microvax II** to **THENET (Texas Higher Education Network)**.

SATELLITE EDUCATION

In 1989, the **Interactive Education System via Satellite (SEIS for its acronym in Spanish)**, which was used to train Tec teachers, became operational, broadcasting from the Monterrey and State of Mexico campuses.

Broadcasts continued uninterrupted for 25 years until **2014 when the satellite was switched off**.

El teclado One Touch facilitaba el aprendizaje a distancia. width="1277" loading="lazy">

COMMUNICATION TOOLS AND DEVICES

At the beginning of the 1990s, teachers would send their materials **from NeXT computers to fax systems and use One Touch keyboards** for surveys and calls.

In 1994, the first CD ROMS were handed out in the Tec with interactive **multimedia resources** to support the courses.

THE VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY AND LIBRARY

In 1996, SEIS went on to become the **Virtual University**, which consisted of interactive classes via satellite that incorporated e-mail, multimedia and the first websites.

Three years later **saw the creation of the Digital Library, with international databases** that Virtual University students could access.

Los programas educativos llegaron a los celulares. width="715" loading="lazy">

ONLINE EDUCATION

By 2000, the Tec's online educational provision boasted **three master's degrees, two specializations and three undergraduate degrees**. Live broadcasts via the Internet **were incorporated later**.

Around 2007, the first courses in the **Mobile Learning Model** were developed, which **would allow access through the cellphones** of that time.

MASSIVE ONLINE COURSES

The Tec offered the first **Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC)** back in 2013 through platforms like **Coursera, MéxicoX** and **Edx**.

By 2016, **FIT (Flexible, Interactive using Technology)** courses began under hybrid learning, a model that reached the finals of the **2017 Wharton-QS Stars Reimagine Education competition**.

La telepresencia se implementó en el 2018, primero en la materia Física 1. width="643" loading="lazy">

AUGMENTED AND VIRTUAL REALITY, AND TELEPRESENCE

In 2018, an **augmented reality application for Smartphones called Art3D** was made available to students, **[as well as telepresence with a holographic effect](#)**.

Online training units began, and virtual reality areas were opened in 7 Tec campuses, the so-called **VR Zones**.

This week, the Tec commemorates the last 30 years **of Innovation in Education with Digital and Distance Experiences** with activities from September **23 through 27**. Check the list of events **[HERE](#)**.

****With information from Rita Sarmiento, storyteller from the Monterrey campus.***

YOU'LL SURELY WANT TO READ THIS TOO:

<https://tec.mx/en/news/national/education/future-has-arrived-tec-holds-classes-collaborative-vr>