

# How can universities joining forces help in a post-COVID world?



Universities can help adapt to the **new normal** in the **post-covid era** by **developing international collaboration between themselves**, so they can share **best practices** and **research**.

This was one of the messages shared by **David Garza, Rector and Executive President of Tec de Monterrey**, in his talk at the **World Academic Summit**, organized by the evaluation organization [Times Higher Education \(THE\)](#) in partnership with [Universitas 21](#), an international network of universities.

***“International collaboration** allows us to learn from each other, to develop synergies. That is the key to facing this crisis,”* Garza shared.

At the virtual panel “Thriving Post Covid: Re-imagining Global University Collaboration”, Garza said that it has been essential for the Tec **to work with other** institutions and **international university** networks.

PRESIDENT DAVID GARZA

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*“We have collaborated with universities to try and **mitigate the effects of the pandemic** (through) initiatives that focus on the **health and wellbeing** of our students and communities.”*

He noted that **partnerships between universities** will become more relevant in the new normal and are an opportunity to generate a **mindset** which will help create a **better world**.

Luc Sels, Rector of [KU Leuven](#); Eng Chye Tan, President of the [National University of Singapore](#); and Shearer West, President and Vice Chancellor of the [University of Nottingham](#), also participated in the panel discussion.

The discussion was moderated by Anton Muscatelli, Principal and Vice Chancellor of the [University of Glasgow](#).

The **2020 World Academic Summit (THE)** events were scheduled for September 1 and 2 at UK times.



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## THE TEC: AN INTERFACE FOR INTERNATIONAL AID

Through such international collaborations, Tec has also been able to help higher education institutions located in **Mexico** and **Latin America** cope with the **COVID-19** crisis.

*“The Tec is also an interface or an exchange for **greater knowledge and experience from abroad** which universities in our countries need.*”

*“For example, when we had to implement an **emergency remote teaching strategy**. We pooled resources from our colleagues around the world, and then made them available to both Mexican and Latin American institutions,”* he commented.

Garza stressed that it is necessary to develop **synergies** which help to generate a **global mindset** in graduates.

*“This will help the higher education sector remain global and make it more **resilient**. Collaboration will not only help us stay afloat, but also look towards the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead,”* he added.



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Garza said that developing **synergies** with institutions in **other countries** is part of his **vision** as Tec President.

*"I always mention that I want to focus on the" three "i"s "": the i for **innovation**, the i for **investigation**, and the i for **internationalization**.*

*"**Internationalization** has helped us a lot in terms of our goals for education, research, strategy, vision, and operation, and it has also been an inspiration. For example, **60%** of our students finish their degree having had **an international experience**," he said.*

He highlighted that although **Tec students represent** less than 1% of Mexican students in higher education, the university provides more than **20% of opportunities for student study abroad**.

*"For us, it has been very beneficial to interact with other universities, because we can also **see how they work and share best practices**.*

*"With the help of these partnerships, we are also investigating how we can continue to foster a **multicultural environment** now that we have restrictions on physical mobility for students, **with internationalization from home**," he added.*





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## THE TEC'S INTERNATIONALIZATION EFFORTS

Garza said that the institution is focusing its efforts on innovating in education on a global scale, as it does through the **International Conference on Educational Innovation** that it holds every year.

*"Through this conference, we have found partners around the world. Several rectors who are members of the **Universitas 21** network have taken part in these conferences,"* he commented.

He highlighted that the Tec has signed research agreements with about **20 top universities around the world**, which he considers beneficial for the **institution's research agenda** to generate a bigger impact.

*"This also helps us with our strategy and vision: every year we make trips to different countries; these represent opportunities to be able to talk with leaders, learn about different operational models and strategies, and also be able to **find inspiration.**"*

Garza pointed out that the traditional educational model taught in one place and operated by a single institution could evolve and expand with the help of **partnerships between universities around the world**.

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