

# World Bank praises Tec's academic adaptation to pandemic



The [World Bank](#) has recognized [Tec de Monterrey](#) for reorganizing its [Tec21 Model](#) to deal with the **COVID-19** pandemic through its **HyFlex+Tec** strategy.

In the **webinar** “*Shaping the Future of Transformational Education & Lessons from COVID-19: Mexico Shows the Way*”, executives from the Tec, private **companies**, and the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, a World Bank organization, discussed education during the **health emergency**.

**David Garza**, the Tec’s **rector and executive president**, and **Georgina Baker**, IFC Vice President for Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, and Central Asia, led this panel on the evolution of the Tec’s **challenge-based** educational model.

This is not the first time IFC has recognized the **Tec’s educational model**. In January, **Ann Casanova**, who was also present at the webinar, presented a [Tec21 Model case study](#).



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Baker acknowledged that **distance education** around the world began long **before** the current **pandemic**. However, this way of teaching became the **only form** that could be used successfully as a result of the pandemic.

*“The **pandemic** has **affected universities**. Virtual education has already become a reality and the **Tec21 Model** has adapted to this new concept. The **Tec** has always sought to **prepare its students** for the **future**,”* she stated.

**David Garza Salazar**, the Tec’s rector and executive president, highlighted the importance of **preparing students** to face an **uncertain, volatile, ambiguous, and complex world**.

This need, says Garza, along with **resilience** and **responsiveness**, is what prompted the Tec to act when the pandemic changed education around the world.

*“The **pandemic** came along and brought new **challenges** and **opportunities** with it. Concepts such as **micro-masters**, hybrid learning, and continuing education are going to be important for education,”* he added.



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## HyFlex+Tec: our educational toolbox

**Ignacio de la Vega**, dean of the Tec's **EGADE Business School**, recalled the adaptations made when, on March 12, 2020, the Tec announced that it would migrate to the **HyFlex+Tec** virtual model.

*"It was difficult. There are **90,000 students**, **10,000 teachers** and **50,000 classes every week**," he shared.*

This format not only focuses on classes but also on creating an entire **environment** with **student leadership** and **training activities**, **emotional** and **mental health support**, **nutritional information**, **exercise**, and **attention** 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*"The classes worked well, but we still needed to have a **holistic view** of the process, and that's why we launched HyFlex+Tec. The **future began** long before the pandemic. We've been continually developing **Tec21**, even after it was launched almost 18 months ago," added De La Vega.*

*"We also added different **courses** and **certificate programs**. Now, even though we've been using this new model for months, we're still continuing to **innovate** and **improve**," added the dean.*



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Similarly, **Juan Pablo Murra**, the Tec's rector for undergraduate programs, spoke out about the **importance of faculty** to both the **new teaching format** and in the educational **model** itself.

*"From the very beginning, we understood the **crucial** importance of the **teaching staff**. Teachers have had to work differently, and that is not always easy,"* Murra said.

*"Doctors and health personnel have been heroes in this pandemic, but so have the **teachers** who are **teaching millions of students** around the world."*

*"The **plus (+)** that is included within the **HyFlex+Tec** name is important because it is **not only** about **teaching**, but also about the student **experience**,"* added Murra.

De La Vega added that, by 2025 or 2030, the university wants to have the **best teaching staff in the world**.



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## **An education apt for post-pandemic labor challenges**

The **Tec21 Model** has **4 core pillars: challenge-based learning, flexibility in how, when and where you learn, memorable university experiences, and inspiring teachers.**

As part of challenge-based learning, **students are able to work** together with their **teachers** and **peers** to solve problems faced by **real organizations**, which are called **training partners.**

These challenges **changed** during the **pandemic**, both in terms of the adoption of an online **format for learning**, and also in **providing solutions** to problems generated by the pandemic.

**Susana Coppel**, president of **Fundación Coppel Comunidad** and a member of the board, also participated in the IFC organized webinar, and shared her experience of how Tec students were able to adapt their detection of, and resolutions for, new challenges.



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*“The Tec trains its teams of students; we nominate **executives** to be **judges** for each of the stages and, at the end, the **5 best proposals** are **chosen**.”*

*“We put the **solution** (provided by **the challenge’s winning students**) into practice: we began using WhatsApp as a means of communication with our customers at the beginning of the pandemic,” Coppel said.*

Other **ideas** proposed by students to deal with the **problems** brought on by **COVID-19** have also been of **help** to the **company**.

Susana added that the students have done outstanding work online and have demonstrated that they are **prepared** to be the **professionals of the future**.

The **Coppel** company has been a Tec **training partner** as part of its educational model for **2 consecutive years**.



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Likewise, **Ann**, who carried out a case study of the model in early 2020, confirmed that these **activities** and **adaptations** to the pandemic are **preparing young people** for what is to come.

*“The **Tec** is **preparing** its students to **face the future**; it gives them **control** over their **careers** and strengthens their **abilities**.”*

*“It helps them to solve **complex problems** and work **in multidisciplinary teams**. The students will be able to find innovative solutions and be **prepared** for a **complex world**,” she confirmed.*

**You can watch the webinar here:**

<https://www.facebook.com/TecdeMonterrey/videos/643748936293635>

**YOU’LL DEFINITELY WANT TO READ:**

<https://tec.mx/en/news/national/institution/world-bank-publishes-case-study-tec21-model>