

Tec and University of Illinois promote bioengineering research



The [Tec School of Engineering and Sciences \(EIC\)](#) and the [University of Illinois at Chicago \(UIC\)](#) will provide seed funding to 4 research projects for developing these initiatives, on which professors from both universities are collaborating.

The objective of this collaboration between the institutions is to **promote a globally connected community** supporting the efforts of **Tec** and [UIC](#) researchers, said **Juan José Cabrera Lazarini**, director of the [Tec-UIC](#) foreign delegation at the **Vice Rector's Office for Internationalization**.

He recalled that the **Tec** and [UIC](#) have recently signed a strategic partnership agreement to **promote a seed funding program** for research projects developed between the **EIC** and its counterpart at the [University of Illinois at Chicago](#).



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In order to achieve this goal, academics **identified 4 areas of interest** that coincide with **scientific developments** currently being carried out by the two institutions.

These disciplines are related to **biotechnology and nanotechnology, bioengineering, robotics, and advanced manufacturing, as well as signal processing and data science.**

“Despite the pandemic, we will continue to support research and internationalization efforts with our strategic partners,” explained **Cabrera Lazarini**.

With this in mind, a call was sent out to **select 4 bioengineering projects**, each of which will receive funding from both universities of up to **60,000 dollars**.

“We’re making a big effort to provide continuity to our professors’ research projects,” said **Alberto Hernández Luna**, director of outreach and development at the **EIC**.

“Despite the pandemic, we will continue to support research and internationalization efforts.”



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As part of the second stage of the seed capital projects, another [call](#) was sent out: this time inviting **Tec** students **to carry out a research stay** at [UIC](#).

A total of **7 student residency programs** were established, of which 4 are related to engineering and 3 to business projects.

“We want this experience to have an impact not only on students but also on teachers,” explained **Alberto Hernández**.

The aim is to **design a specific exchange model** in which students act as ambassadors for their schools, having specialized knowledge for the projects on which they are going to collaborate.

This will allow them to contribute substantially to **meeting the goals set by the research professor** in charge of the project.

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The intention is to **strengthen this exchange model and replicate it with other universities** such as [Urbana-Champaign](#), the [University of Cincinnati](#), and [Purdue University](#), said the

EIC's director of outreach and development.

Tec-UIC research projects selected for seed funding

- *Acylation of anthocyanin extracts as a strategy to enhance their potential in a transgenic fish model of osteoporosis (Gail B. Mahady, Diego Luna Vital)*
- *Assistive SWEHO for ALS patients (Myunghee Kim, José Luis Gordillo, Omar Mendoza)*
- *Exosome-modified biodegradable hydrogels for local, sustained, and controlled delivery of therapeutic biologicals (Eeben Alsberg, José González Velez)*
- *Signal Design for Eye Tracking with Applications in Parkinson's Diagnosis and Treatment (Mojtaba Solatnalian, César Vargas Rosales)*

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