

# Distance learning innovation: Tec class wins international award



An **online class** from the [Master in Innovation for Business Development](#) at [Tec de Monterrey](#) has been recognized at the [2020 International Education Awards](#), held in India, for implementing **personalized learning**.

The “Financial Impact of Innovation on Companies” class, taught online by Professor **Iván González**, was recognized in the “**Excellence in Distance Learning**” category.

The aim of **personalized learning** is for students to learn in a **personalized** way and tackle their weaknesses in a subject.

*“The award’s an open call. We decided to apply for this category and were **one of the few winners from outside India**,”* said González.



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### The personalized methodology of the winning class

González said that in this class, they seek to **tailor learning** according to **students' needs**, unlike traditional classes, where topics on **finance** are presented in a general way.

*"What I like is that you can see you're **sharing this knowledge** and that the students are **benefiting from it**,"* he said.

First, the teacher presents **resolved financial cases** and their corresponding theory.

Then, students take an **exam**, which isn't graded as part of their final assessment, to **test their knowledge** on the subject.

*"Following **the outcome** of that **exam**, students have the **opportunity** to see where they went wrong.*

*"They then have **personalized sessions** with the **teacher** during which they do activities and tasks, as well as reading texts, referencing materials, and watching videos,"* said González.

### Challenges of the class

One of the main **challenges** of this methodology is that students entering the Master's in Innovation for Business Development come from **different undergraduate degrees**.

*"We've had **doctors, lawyers, architects, engineers**, people from **different backgrounds**,"* he adds.

González said that because his students don't have the same **knowledge**, the methodology of **personalized learning** has been of **great help** in reinforcing basic concepts.

As a consequence, **designing materials** and **class content** has been an additional challenge.

The teacher also mentions that due to their **positive results** in theory and practice, they decided to take part in **calls** such as the **International Education Awards**.



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## The International Education Awards

This award, given by **Kiteskraft Productions**, seeks to recognize the efforts of **educators** and **institutions around the world** for innovations and contributions to areas of education.

*"Interestingly, **95 percent** of the **winners** were from **India**. The event is organized there, and I was one of the few people from elsewhere, from another continent," González said.*

The **awards ceremony** was carried out **virtually** due to the pandemic. González received a **diploma** and will later receive a **statuette** by mail.

*"**I wasn't expecting** the award. We applied and pursued it but winning was something I wasn't expecting, and I really enjoyed it," he said.*

González is a full-time professor of online **Digital Education** master's degree courses at Tecnológico de Monterrey.

In March 2019, he received **Recognition for Academic Inspiration** from the director of the Digital Systems and Robotics Engineering degree program and the Tec alumni society for the same course.

<https://www.facebook.com/internationaleducationawards/photos/a.1609432112535397/222970088717518>

### **A pioneering class in personalized learning at the Tec**

**Jorge Alfonso Ramírez, Digital Experiences** Director for graduate Engineering programs, said that more and more people want to **personalize** their **learning**.

*“Within the **master’s degree**, we want **things like this** to happen, and in this case, it was a **good achievement**. The **innovation** that’s put into practice isn’t just about changing something to make it different, but about addressing a problem,”* said Ramírez.

The director said that this is one of the **first times** this style of **classes has been implemented in a master’s degree**, and that it’s an accomplishment to be **recognized internationally**.

*“The **innovation that’s put into practice isn’t just about changing something to make it different, but about addressing a problem.**”*

*“It’s not easy. **India is a very competitive country** with a large number of teachers, students, and scientists, and the fact that this project had such a result is extremely satisfactory,”* he said.

These type of **personalized learning experiences** have been implemented in other **areas of education** at Tec de Monterrey, such as its **Tec21 Model**.

In this model, **students** can **enter** a **subject area** and **define** the **path** they’ll take during their undergraduate degree to specialize in various topics at the end of their degree course.

What’s more, their learning is based on **flexible, experience-based challenges**, with **inspiring teachers** and a memorable **student experience**.

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