

Tec rector: universities more diverse and collaborative after COVID



What does the **future of higher education** look like? **David Garza**, rector and president of [Tec de Monterrey](#) believes that, after the **COVID-19** crisis, universities will need to **diversify** teaching **processes** and engage in greater **collaboration**.

Garza participated in the session “***The future of universities: Universities during a time of crisis***”, at the [Times Higher Education Innovation and Impact Summit](#), alongside other world leaders in education.

The rector of the Tec explained that universities will become **more diverse, multi-institutional, and multinational**, and that they will have greater **interaction with other organizations** around the world.

*“What we’ve experienced during this pandemic is not something we can try to solve alone; **universities are going to have to evolve and will need to be more collaborative,**”* said the rector.

He explained that he sees universities tackling the crisis with **leadership** centered on what he calls **the 3 “Rs”**: **resilience, resources, and responsiveness**.



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Diversity in teaching and learning processes

Before the pandemic, there were already changes taking place around the world that led educational institutions to evolve, such as **digitalization and the fourth industrial revolution**, Garza explained.

*“Institutions are going to evolve to become **more diverse** and, although in-person learning will continue to be important, there will be **many ways of teaching and learning**.”*

*“There will also be other **equally important elements** such as **student wellbeing**,”* he added.

What’s more, **multi-institutional environments** will be created, in which students will **form part of other institutions** in addition to their own university.

Moreover, universities’ educational models will be complemented by **“free flow”** programs, in which students will be able to get **micro-credentials**, take modular courses, and participate in **continuing education** programs.

*“This will be an important activity for universities in the near future; **people are looking to increase and improve their skills**, and universities have an important societal role to play in that regard.”*

DAVID GARZA

president
Monterrey Institute of Technology

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Greater collaboration between institutions around the world

The rector believes that both institutions and society will face **increasingly complex challenges**, which will only be solved through **interaction and collaboration**.

As an example, he mentioned [international experiences](#) -suspended because of the pandemic and now happening virtually- which represent opportunities for students' **personal, intellectual and cultural growth**.

*“Now, **very creative ways of interacting** with other institutions around the world have been developed. They don't replace the in-person experience, but they can give this **opportunity** to students who may not have been able to go abroad,”* he added.

He also explained that students now have **access to university infrastructure, laboratories, and even courses from other institutions from their homes**.



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*“If you’re looking for a way to deal with a crisis, a way to give your students a better education, and even ways to make your processes more efficient, the best way you can do that is **by interacting with other institutions**,”* he shared.

Garza believes it is possible for them to find **support through university networks**.

*“It will be a **multinational effort or organization**; a coordinating group helping them move forward. There are **university networks such as [U21](#) and [APRU](#)**, and there’s also the **University Global Compact** in support of the **Sustainable Development Goals**.”*



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Also on the panel were **Courtney Brown**, Vice President of Impact and Planning at the Lumina Foundation, and **Amanda Crowfoot**, Secretary General of the European University Association.

Phil Baty, Chief Knowledge Officer at THE, and **Fadlo Khuri**, president of the American University of Beirut, also participated. The talk was moderated by **Arno Meerman**, CEO of the University Industry Innovation Network.

[Times Higher Education](#) (THE) is one of the most important **higher education evaluators** in the world.

University leaders and education experts participated in the **virtual** conference, which took place on London time from April 19 to 22.

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