

David Garza, President of Tec, assumes role as Chair of Universitas U21 global network

- *David Garza, President of Tecnológico de Monterrey (Tec), has taken on the role of Chair of Universitas 21, becoming the first Latin American to lead this prestigious global university network.*
- *This reflects Tecnológico de Monterrey's leadership in international higher education.*

Monterrey, Nuevo León, November 4, 2024. – David Garza, President of Tecnológico de Monterrey, has assumed the role of Chair of **Universitas 21 (U21)**, one of the world's most prestigious global academic networks. He is the first Latin American to hold this position in the 27-year history of U21, highlighting the impact of Mexico and Tecnológico de Monterrey as academic platforms driving transformation in the global sphere.

Universitas 21 brings together 29 universities from 19 countries across the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa, Antarctica, and Oceania. Among its members, 60% are ranked in the Top 100 and 80% in the Top 200 globally, according to Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) and Times Higher Education (THE) rankings. This network serves over 1 million students and 200,000 faculty and staff worldwide, focusing on three strategic pillars: research, educational innovation, and student experience.

Garza's appointment as incoming Chair of U21 further strengthens Tecnológico de Monterrey's international presence as a leading institution in higher education. Through this role, Tec not only establishes itself as a global benchmark but also fosters pride and a sense of belonging among its community, including faculty, students, alumni, staff, board members, and student's families.

David Garza has held academic and leadership positions at Tecnológico de Monterrey for almost 40 years, heading academic innovation initiatives and institutional growth. He has served as President since July 2020.

“Taking on this role, as well as being a great responsibility and an honour, it is above all a great source of pride for our country, for our region, and especially for Tecnológico de Monterrey,” Garza said. *“We are living in a world of major challenges: climate change, artificial intelligence, social challenges, and geopolitics. Universitas 21 provides us with a trusted environment for learning and sharing best practice across global education, research and higher education leadership to address these challenges and deliver positive impact at greater pace and scale,”* he concluded.

Jenny Dixon, Provost of Universitas 21, expressed the network's enthusiasm in welcoming Garza to his new role. *“We warmly welcome David and look forward to working with him to continue in our mission to create global citizens and leaders of the future. His ethos and drive for*

international collaboration, alongside his wealth of experience, will hugely benefit our members across the network.”

Garza officially assumed the role of U21’s incoming Chair on November 1, succeeding Professor Shearer West, the Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Nottingham, and will serve until May 2027.

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About Tecnológico de Monterrey

Tecnológico de Monterrey (<http://www.tec.mx>) is a private, non-profit multi-campus university. Since its foundation in 1943 it has been distinguished for its academic excellence, innovation in education, entrepreneurship, internationalisation, along with its deep engagement with industry. With a presence across 33 cities of 20 states of Mexico, it has 60,000 enrolled undergraduate and graduate students and more than 27,000 high school students. Accredited by SACSCOC since 1950. Ranked 185th in the QS World University Rankings 2025, 4th in Latin America and 1st in Mexico according to THE Latin America University Rankings 2024. It also stands out in global employability and entrepreneurship programs, being part of international networks such as APRU and U21 among others.

About Universitas 21

Universitas 21 (U21) is a diverse, global network that brings together world-leading, research-intensive universities across six continents, who share a common belief in the value of collaboration and internationalisation. As a people-led network, we engage with many different audiences at all levels in our member institutions to support the delivery of impact at institutional and societal levels as well as enabling personal career development and growth. We are proud of the trusted environment that U21 continues to build, so that our member institutions can collaborate and share best practice effectively, focusing on areas such as global education, global research and the many diverse challenges facing higher education leaders at a global, national and local level.

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