



## Tec president chairs global U21 meeting of presidents in US

President of the [Tecnológico de Monterrey](#) Education Group [David Garza](#) has chaired the [annual meeting and presidential symposium](#) of global university network [U21](#) or [Universitas 21](#).

This meeting was held at **UC Davis**, in Sacramento, California, from May 7 to 9 under the theme: *“Imagining the Future of Higher Education.”*

[Universitas 21](#) is a **global network of 30 universities from six continents** with a strong focus on research.

Mexican David Garza **chaired his first annual meeting as Chair** of this organization, a position he assumed at the end of last year.

*“The challenges are out there. And although these may be turbulent times, what’s important is that we’re together. We share values and aspirations. That’s what makes **U21 a very valuable network**,”* said Garza in his opening address.

*“Today more than ever, what counts is **international collaboration, pursuing our values and aspirations, and continuing to imagine the future of higher education**,”* he added.



## The U21 annual meeting

Topics such as the following were addressed over the three days of the meeting of university presidents and vice-chancellors:

- **Leading in the midst of adversity**

This panel discussed the pressures and demands on university leaders in changing times.

- **Trends in higher education**

Here, they spoke about important contemporary issues in several parts of the world and key aspects of higher education today.

- **Inclusion at universities**

The panel entitled “The Responsibility of Universities to Underrepresented Communities” discussed the needs for community support and inclusion. Participating in this discussion was **Inés Sáenz**, the Tec’s Vice President of Inclusion, Social Impact, and Sustainability.

The meeting also awarded **prizes and recognition for efforts made by the network on Climate Action and Inclusive Global Participation, to name but two.**

*“I can confirm that we in the higher education sector are the **sector of hope** (...) We have the **opportunity to contribute to a better world**, which I wouldn’t change for anything,”* said David Garza.

*“We all know it’s hard to predict the future, but as someone once said, **the best way to predict the future is to invent it**. That’s what we’re trying to do,”* he added.



## Tec de Monterrey and U21

The president of the Tecnológico de Monterrey Education Group has been **Chair of U21** since November 2024.

**He is the first Latin American chair of this global network.**

**Tec de Monterrey** is currently the **only Mexican university** and one of only two from Latin America, together with the [Pontifical Catholic University of Chile](#), to **belong to this network.**

*“At the end of the day, I’m representing the Tec at a very high-level forum of peers and in a role where there are great expectations,”* he said in this regard to CONECTA.

Garza said that he had shared his vision of the **future role of universities** with attendees during this meeting.

**Jenny Dixon**, Provost of U21, told CONECTA how important the Tec was as a leading university in Latin America on a later visit to the institution’s Monterrey campus after U21’s annual meeting.

*“The connection with its people, companies, and other social stakeholders is palpable (...) It has prospered in these 80 years of its history largely due to **how it has connected with its community,**”* she highlighted.

Regarding the U21 meeting, Dixon said that it had been an opportunity to meet up for three days and discuss **how to work together**, how to address certain **international crises**, and how to think about **internationalization going forward**.

*“As a network, we’re really committed to the idea of internationalization and, similarly, to the idea of collaboration over borders and diverse cultures. **That’s the DNA of our Universitas 21 network.**”*



## About Universitas 21

**Universitas 21 was formed in 1997** and is a diverse, global network that brings together **29 universities from 19 countries** in the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Oceania.

These research-intensive universities share a common belief in the **value of collaboration and internationalization**.

The network has a large concentration (60%) of member universities ranked in the **global Top 100** (QS and THE) that impact over **one million students and 200,000 professors and staff** through collaboration programs, research opportunities, learning, and development.

It is made up of the following universities, listed according to their position in the QS World Universities Rankings 2025:

1. **National University of Singapore** (QS 8)
2. **The University of Melbourne, Australia** (QS 13)
3. **The University of Hong Kong, China** (QS 17)
4. **University of Sydney, Australia** (QS 18)
5. **UNSW Sydney, Australia** (QS 19)

6. **The University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom** (QS 27)
7. **Fudan University, China** (QS 39)
8. **The University of Queensland, Australia** (QS 40)
9. **Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China** (QS 45)
10. **University of Amsterdam, Netherlands** (QS 55)
11. **KU Leuven, Belgium** (QS 63)
12. **The University of Auckland, New Zealand** (QS 65)
13. **Korea University, South Korea** (QS 67)
14. **Lund University, Sweden** (QS 75)
15. **University of Glasgow, United Kingdom** (QS 78)
16. **University of Birmingham, United Kingdom** (QS 80)
17. **Pontifical Catholic University of Chile** (QS 93)
18. **University of Nottingham, United Kingdom** (QS 108)
19. **University of Zurich, Switzerland** (QS 109)
20. **University College Dublin, Ireland** (QS 126)
21. **UC Davis, United States of America** (QS 130)
22. **McMaster University, Canada** (QS 176)
23. **Waseda University, Japan** (QS 181)
24. **Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico** (QS 185) \* Member since 2006
25. **University of Maryland, United States of America** (QS 218)
26. **Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia** (QS 239)
27. **University of Johannesburg, South Africa** (QS 312)
28. **University of Delhi, India** (QS 328)
29. **University of Connecticut, United States of America** (QS 565)

## **Tec de Monterrey's international mission**

Besides being Chair of Universitas 21, the Executive President of Tecnológico de Monterrey is a [member of the Steering Committee](#) of U.S. accreditation body SACSCOC and the Board of Trustees of the [Association of Pacific Rim Universities \(APRU\)](#).

He also belongs to the President's Council of the [University of the People](#) and is a Champion of the [World Economic Forum's Edison Alliance](#).

Tecnológico de Monterrey also participates in other international networks, has signed **research agreements** with more than **ten global Top 200 institutions and universities** and over 50% of its scientific publications are made through international collaborations.

Every year, **7,000 of its students** participate in **international exchanges**, which makes it one of the universities with the most student mobility in the world.

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