

April 17, 2020

To our undergraduate and postgraduate Tec students on semester programs and their parents,

Over the past weeks, we've been dealing as an institution with the circumstances that the Covid-19 crisis has brought, an unprecedented situation for the world, for Mexico, and for Tecnológico de Monterrey. It hasn't been an easy task. We've dedicated a considerable amount of human and financial resources to starting various initiatives, projects, and actions. What's more, we've made important decisions that, although complex, have allowed us to achieve our four objectives for dealing with the pandemic: a) ensure the safety of our university community; b) ensure an excellent standard of academic continuity for our students; c) support those families who are facing financial impacts; and d) contribute to the struggle against this tragedy in Mexico.

Yesterday, the authorities announced the extension of the National Healthy Distance Program in Mexico until May 30, which will have huge implications for our personal lives as well as the life of the institution. In order to follow federal guidelines and contribute to the measures for mitigating against the spread of the pandemic, we hereby inform you that **we'll be continuing with our academic activities under the Flexible Digital Model (Modelo Flexible y Digital, MFD) until the end of the semester on June 12 for those students who enrolled in August 2019 and June 3 for the others, plus the period for exams and final activities that concludes on June 19.**

What's more, we can confirm to those students who are planning to enroll on our summer semester programs that they will be held on the scheduled dates. We'll inform you as to how they'll be taught depending on the way this evolving situation develops.

Regarding graduations, we continue planning to hold them on the scheduled dates at the end of June in the traditional manner, closely following changes to official instructions in order to adjust the dates in accordance with the circumstances and restrictions in effect if necessary.

These are not decisions we've taken lightly. In fact, anticipating different scenarios, we've spent weeks dedicating multiple resources throughout the institution to developing new elements that complement our MFD, in order to ensure that we maximize the learning and academic experience of our students, even under these unusual circumstances. We recognize that the expectations of Tec families are high, and some have expressed concerns regarding the tuition fees they're paying, so we inform you that academic continuity will be based on development of our model, which has become Tec's **Flexible Digital Model Plus**. As of today, this includes:

- An upgrade to our **distance learning model** with new teaching capacities, additional technologies, as well as new learning and mentoring resources for all our students <https://alumnostec.itesm.mx/sites/ModeloFlexibleDigital/Paginas/inicio.html>
- The **LiFE@home** student development program, which includes 64 activities nationwide for art, culture, sports, and entertainment, as well as hundreds of additional activities coordinated at local level <https://alumnostec.itesm.mx/sites/ModeloFlexibleDigital/Paginas/life-home.html>
- The **Taking Care of your Mind** program, which seeks to support the emotional health of our students and their families with valuable information, resources, and activities to keep a balanced inner life in these times of great uncertainty, stress, and worry <https://tec.mx/cuida-tu-mente>

What's more, **from April 22**, we'll be adding three incremental elements of value to MFD Plus for our students and their families, specifically:

- The **Boost your Skills** program, which provides hundreds of complementary elective learning resources exclusively to our students through Tec's unique relationships and associations with platforms such as edX and Coursera, via MOOCs and webinars with a great deal of curricular value to complement their education.
- The **Tec Value Benefits** program, which extends exclusive benefits (discounts, promotions, and preferential conditions) to our students' families from multiple valued partners/suppliers at national and local levels, to provide some support in possibly desperate financial circumstances. And, finally:
- The **Community Connection** initiative to support not only our community, but society in general through projects in the areas of health, education, and economic development that benefit people and organizations outside the Tec. In this way, we're putting our creativity, innovation, and talent at the service of society, together with key social stakeholders to contribute to mitigating the impacts of the crisis in Mexico.

We invite you to learn about our evolved model on the special website we've created at <https://tec.mx/es/mdf-plus>

At Tecnológico de Monterrey, we're committed not only to an excellent standard of education for our students (under any circumstances) but also to having a transformative effect on their lives and communities. We feel proud of the talent that our teachers and collaborators contribute to this mission, which is evident in the robustness and innovation of MFD Plus. We're also looking to ensure that no talented students lose the opportunity to continue their studies at Tec for reasons related to the Covid-19 crisis, so we recently launched the **Emergency Student Fund** (<http://mitec.itesm.mx> and <http://mitecpadres.itesm.mx>), which has now received applications from thousands of families who really need financial support.

The crisis we're facing has meant impacts in the millions on the finances of our institution, from reductions in donations to the loss of resources for research, as well as a drop in income from elective surgeries at our hospitals, the loss of sales from SorteosTec and other significant impacts. The economic impact will be profound and lasting. Even so, we understand our role as a non-profit institution which comes from society and is for society whose mission is Education to Transform Lives. We shall therefore spare no effort to achieve our objectives over the course of this pandemic, including the aggressive program of institutional austerity which is currently in effect.

The situation we're all facing is uncertain, so we're preparing for multiple scenarios and their implications for our students' academic continuity, listening to their concerns and incorporating the suggestions we receive through our **EscuchandoTec** tool for students.

We thank those families and friends of Tec who have joined our mission by donating resources, ideas, time, and talent through our philanthropy program **Unidos Podemos** (<https://unidospodemos.tec.mx/>) to be part of this battle for education and for Mexico to be healthy and prosperous once again. We need them and many more.

We've made these decisions in the face of serious questions and expectations about what lies in store for Mexico and for Tec, but we're sure we'll ride out these circumstances as we've done in the past, coming out stronger than before. Thank you for being part of the Tec family. Thank you for staying together despite the distance and keeping healthy and united with your loved ones.

In appreciation of all your efforts,

David Garza Salazar
Rector

Salvador Alva Gómez
President