

Tec graduate gets scholarship from MIT for achievements in logistics



This scholarship will allow her to pursue a master's degree in Supply Chain Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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COURTESY OF THE INTERVIEWEE

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Mariana Otero Becerril, an Industrial and Systems Engineering graduate from the [Tec's Toluca campus](#), has received the **2025 MIT Supply Chain Excellence Award**, an **international scholarship** that recognizes the **best students** working on logistics and supply chains.

Every year, the **MIT Center for Transportation and Logistics** awards this scholarship to **outstanding students** from partner universities. It provides a **30,000-dollar** grant to pursue a master's degree in **Supply Chain Management**.

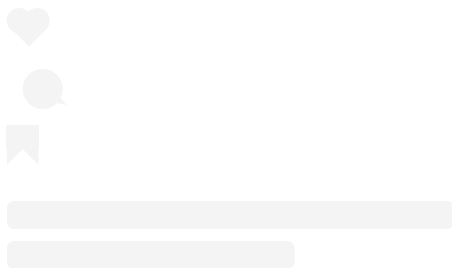
Mariana first learned about the scholarship at an information session that her program director invited her to. There, two previous scholarship winners shared their

experience.

*"I learned about the program a year ago; **I loved it,** and obviously I said, 'This is where I belong.' I kept it in mind for the whole year so when the time came to apply, I was ready," she said.*



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Unexpected news

Mariana had to jump through several hoops in order to apply for the scholarship, including sending a **detailed résumé**, writing motivational essays, and acquiring letters of **recommendation**. The final test was an interview with Dr. María Jesús Sáenz, director of the program.

*"I was having breakfast one Thursday, before going to work, and I got the email that I had won. I was so excited and honestly couldn't believe it. I was incredibly excited because I know what this **scholarship** means, and I know that it can move my career forward ten times faster.*

*"During my Industrial and Systems Engineering degree, I discovered I had a strong interest in **strategic planning, process optimization, and supply chain analysis**," she shared.*

The student had already participated in a project with **MIT**, through the **MIT LIFT Lab**, during her university studies. Her project, which focused on the **analysis of micro-businesses** in **Mexico**, was selected at national level to be presented to the MIT team.



Mariana during LIFT LAB FEST at the Santa Fe campus. Photo: Courtesy of the interviewee

Her research on Canadian bus networks

Mariana participated in a research stay at the **University of Calgary**, Canada, as part of a program with the **Mitacs** organization to study the field of public transportation. She worked on identifying key stops on **Canadian bus networks**.

What's more, she led work teams and organized events as a Project Leader for the Tecnológico de Monterrey Student Federation (**FETEC**) on Toluca campus from August 2023 to July 2024.

*"What impacted me the most was **FETEC**, because it helped me transform all my soft skills into something professional," she said.*



Liliana López, LiFE director, Mariana Otero, and Claudia Gallegos, director of Tec Toluca, during the LiFE Awards. Photo: Alejandro Bertín Ruiz Arriaga

Graduates have five years to qualify for the scholarship and must meet certain requirements, including two years of full-time **work experience** in the field of supply chains.

“When you enjoy something and put a lot of effort into it, results will happen. Also, when you dedicate time and passion to what you love, it’s easier to find your way,” she said.

“When you dedicate time and passion to what you love, it’s easier to find your way.” - Mariana Otero

But first, Mariana plans to use another scholarship she has won in order to pursue a Master's degree in Public Transportation Science at the University of Calgary, where she previously completed her **research** stay.

***"It was my high school dream** to go on an exchange program. I thought it was a very distant and almost impossible dream because it's very expensive. Then I began to come across all the research **opportunities** that exist.*

*"It's very important that we take advantage of everything the **university** offers, that we make the most of it, that we enjoy it, because when you enjoy something, that's when you truly **learn**," she concluded.*

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