

Mensa International Election 2021

Candidate Statements

CANDIDATE FOR INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR - DEVELOPMENT



José Luis Martínez

Biography

Hi! I'm José Luis Martínez and I'm 33 years old and I've been born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina. I'm the youngest of four siblings, uncle of five very happy kids and I've the joy of still have my father around and in good health. I've worked all my life in IT, as a Business Intelligence consultant, having the honor to help in more than 20 companies, including four Fortune 500 ones such as W.W. Grainger, Kimberly-Clark, Boehringer Ingelheim and Energizer Holdings Inc. My working experience has given me the skills and tools for leading in multi-cultural teams around the globe, meeting incredible people along the way. I've a passion for music, not only as a recreation but as a musician: I've recorded a small amount of VERY UNSUCCESSFUL (ha!) EPs with different bands in the last 15 years.

Every detail can be found in <https://www.josedod.com>

Campaign statement

I offer a Project that will be based in the following pillars, that you can read in detail in <https://www.josedod.com> :

1. Official translation team
2. Provide help to already established Full National Mensas
3. A professional, data-driven way of manage the department
4. Work done by a team
5. Physical presence in undeveloped zones
6. A truly international organization
7. More presence in social networks and improvement in our press managing

To be brief, I offer a professional Department of development, integrating a team of multi-cultural Mensans, working not only to help the already established Full National Mensas that are struggling, but also working to expand Mensa in Africa, South America and Central America. If you elect me, I will be a Director of Development that is a native Spanish speaker, understands the social-cultural-economic context and resides in the continent is a huge help, as the initial tasks (Contacting people interested, travel to take the first tests, help them with the first steps and initial administration) will be way cheaper and a lot faster.

Also, I want to improve the relationship between Mensa International and the Membership.

Every detail can be found in <https://www.josedod.com>

Answers to IBD questions

1. What do you see as the most important aspect of the role for which you are standing?

As a director of development for a global organization there is nothing more important than having the skill to lead a multi-cultural team that can provide insights about the cultural aspects of every region you are trying to work with. After that, data exploitation skills are very handy to understand tendencies and forge a sounding strategy.

Every detail can be found in <https://www.josedod.com>

2. Why have you volunteered for this role, and what in particular qualifies you for it?

I believe I have the skillset, knowledge, experience and project to make a difference and bring solutions for long-standing problems inside Mensa International and the National chapters. Being a Business Intelligence consultant gave me the tools to work with data, which is a key skill for this role. Also, my experience leading Mensa Argentina to become the Full National Mensa

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with the highest percentage membership growth 2018-2019 and solving the incredible difficulties that plagued us for the last 10 years has given me a valuable experience.

Every detail can be found in <https://www.josedod.com>

3. What do you see as the most important issues facing international Mensa at the present time and in the next few years?

First of all, I believe that Mensa International should be more involved with the membership. Also, expanding Mensa to more countries in Africa, Central America and South America is of the utmost importance. I also believe that Mensa International should be more proactive while helping the National Chapters.

Every detail can be found in <https://www.josedod.com>

4. What do you wish to achieve during your term of office?

I want to help revert the decrease in the membership that the British Isles are suffering from at least the last 20 years. Also, I want to bring new membership from 20 to 35 years old. I want to establish a Knowledge base with the politics that have led every successful Mensa to grow. I wish to establish more National Chapters in the south hemisphere. I want to leave a professional department of development.

Every detail can be found in <https://www.josedod.com>

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Kishore Asthana

Biographical Statement

Education:

B.E. (Mechanical) from the National Institute of Technology in Durgapur. Won the University Gold Medal.

Post Graduation in Management from the Indian Institute of Management (Ahmedabad). Won the Air India Merit Scholarship at IIMA.

Work Experience:

I'm a past President of Mensa India. At present I'm the Chairman of the Dhruv Foundation and President of Mensa Project Dhruv for the identification & nurturing of Underprivileged gifted children.

I have 35 years of mostly senior management experience. I was the Group Vice Chairman & Business Advisor for one of the senior-most Omani Royal Family members.

Miscellaneous:

I qualified for MIL with an IQ of 160.

My articles have been published in various newspapers & magazines. Some fiction and non-fiction books & collections of poems are also in print.

Ironically, what usually interests people more is that I once modelled for Raymond Suitings!

Campaign statement

The International Director - Development has two important roles:

1. Developmental
2. As part of other ExCom decision-making.

1. Developmental:

- a. I've been closely involved in getting Mensa India to PNM (soon FNM) status. I've also played a major role in drafting our Indian National Mensa Constitution. I can mentor various new Mensa country chapters move to PNM and FNM status.
- b. I have experience of how to start new chapters and how to help them grow. I started Mensa India Delhi as our only member here a few years back. Today this is our most dynamic chapter.
- c. I've started Mensa Project Dhruv for the identification & mentoring of underprivileged gifted children. I'd like to start similar projects in other countries. This will help make Mensa more socially relevant.

2. Other ExCom matters:

I am an Engineer with a postgraduate degree in management from India's premier management institute, IIMA. I also have 35 years' managerial experience, most of which has been at senior levels. I feel confident that I can make a meaningful contribution during ExCom's deliberations.

Miscellaneous: I will bring a fresh non-US, non-European perspective to Mensa ExCom.

Answers to IBD Questions

1. What do you see as the most important aspect of the role for which you are standing?

The International Director-Development is responsible for direct international membership; membership development in countries which do not yet have recognized national Mensas; membership development assistance to national Mensas, international public

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relations & international special-interest groups. Apart from these other duties may also be assigned.

While all these are important responsibilities, I feel that Mensans are the bedrock of Mensa. In view of this, in my opinion, membership development in countries that do not have recognized national Mensas as yet is extremely important. This requires two important interventions:

- a. Help and guidance in developing new chapters and bringing them to FNM status.
- b. Encouraging and enabling a higher national public profile of Mensa in every country. More widespread publicity of Mensa's objectives and of the advantages that Mensa Membership can bring, is very important.

2. Why have you volunteered for this role, and what in particular qualifies you for it?

I have volunteered for this role because:

- a. I have experienced what it takes to get a National Mensa chapter start and achieve PNM and FNM status. I can use this learning to help get new National Mensa chapters started, promoted and eventually recognized as FNM. We have so many promising countries where this can be done.
- b. My experience of media management can help Mensa chapters in various countries try for more publicity in a responsible manner.
- c. My experience with starting and running our Mensa Project Dhruv for the identification and nurturing of underprivileged gifted children will be very useful in starting such nation building initiatives in various countries.
- d. With my educational qualifications and 35 years' management experience, I am confident that I have the needed balance and maturity to advise the ExCom on non-development aspects also.

3. What do you see as the most important issues facing International Mensa at the present time and in the next few years?

In my view one of the most important issues facing Mensa International at present is the growing disenchantment of young people with an organization that they consider 'elitist'.

This kind of reverse snobbishness arises from a lack of understanding regarding what Mensa stands for. Many people appear to think that, as Mensa members, they

would only be getting 'bragging rights' and little else. This is not what Mensa is all about.

Our challenge is to effectively explain that Mensa membership is like a door to a world populated by some very intelligent people, who are willing and able to interact with you. It expands your perspective. Mensa membership can be a uniting factor in an increasingly divided world.

Another challenge is how to make Mensa more socially relevant. This will also help negate the impression that Mensa is merely an elitist organization.

4. What do you wish to achieve during your term of office?

My aim will be to achieve the following:

- a. Help start new Mensa chapters in countries that already have a significant number of direct MIL members and in countries where people are enquiring about Mensa.
 - b. Start Mensa projects for identifying and mentoring underprivileged gifted children on the model of our Mensa Project Dhruv and Mensa India's Tribal Mensa Program. This can earn immense goodwill for Mensa, especially in African countries and in countries such as Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. These projects will also help reduce the impression of Mensa as an elitist organization.
 - c. Last, but not the least, I hope to bring a fresh non-American, non-European perspective to Mensa's Executive Committee as I feel that Asia is under-represented in it.
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