



SCHOOL AID MTÜ

Curriculum Vitae



Nichola de Montaigne

President (Chair of the Management Board)

Leads School Aid MTÜ — its strategy, mission and operations — and directs education, safeguarding and grants across all programmes (Morocco, the Philippines and Venezuela).

Based in Cascais, Portugal · International education, safeguarding & EdTech leader · MA International Education · 20+ years across 6 countries

School Aid role — President (Chair of the Management Board)

- Lead School Aid's strategy, mission and day-to-day operations, and chair the Management Board.
- Direct education and replacement-schooling programme design and quality, and child-safeguarding standards, across all countries.
- Lead the grant and crowdfunding pipeline; oversee the ring-fenced Panay education assignment, firewalled from Biomass Asia Inc.
- Board appointment in process — registration of the expanded Board with the Estonian Business Register pending.

Profile

Nichola de Montaigne is an international education leader and safeguarding specialist with more than 20 years across international schools in Portugal, China, Brazil and Norway, complemented by front-line social-work practice supporting vulnerable and abused children and an early period in the Philippines working with Maribeth de Montaigne on the development of Global Green Power. She has co-founded and led a new international school — building curriculum, culture and safeguarding policy from the ground up — and now founds and runs an EdTech venture. She holds an MA in International Education (Leadership & Management) and a BSc in Developmental Psychology. For School Aid she leads education, safeguarding and grants across all programmes — Morocco, the Philippines and Venezuela — including the ring-fenced Panay education assignment (TESDA-aligned farmer and community education), firewalled from the commercial biochar venture.

Education & qualifications

- MA International Education (Leadership & Management) — University of Sunderland, 2012–2015
- PGCE, Initial Teacher Training — University of Sunderland, 2011–2012
- BSc (Hons) Developmental Psychology — The Open University, 2003–2007
- Diploma in Child & Youth Studies — Lincoln University, 2001–2003
- Certificate in Teaching Synthetic Phonics; Diploma in Teaching Children with Dyslexia — Direct Learning Ltd, 2010–2011
- International Baccalaureate — St. Dominic's International School, Portugal, 1998–2000

Professional experience

Period	Organisation	Role & contribution
2023–present	DeMontaigne Life Design (Portugal)	Founder & CEO. An invite-only ecosystem for families, schools and partners where learning, living and purpose meet. Creator of the proprietary PPPP™ (Purpose · People · Place · Practice) and WEITS™

Period	Organisation	Role & contribution
		(Wellbeing · Entrepreneurship · Innovation · Technology · Sustainability) frameworks; builds human-led, AI-supported education design. Module design, workshops, counselling and investor engagement.
2020–2023	Romerike International School (Norway)	Founding Head & IB PYP Coordinator of this IB World School near Oslo. Co-founded and led the primary division; built teams, curriculum, culture and safeguarding policy from scratch; achieved IB accreditation.
2019–2020	St. Francis College (Brazil)	Led IB PYP implementation (ages 3–11); workshop presenter for the Brazilian Association of IB Schools.
2014–2019	Suzhou Singapore International School (China)	Homeroom teacher, Student Services Coordinator & Case Manager. Inclusive practice; individual learning plans.
2010–2014	St. Dominic's International School (Portugal)	Classroom teacher (ages 4–8) at this IB-continuum World School in Cascais; chaired the PYP Curriculum Self-Study; served on the CIS reaccreditation steering committee.
2009–2010	Social work — UK (Hull) & Portugal	Youth reoffending, family counselling and art therapy; supported vulnerable and abused children (0–18) through casework and rehabilitation.
2007–2009	Global Green Power PLC Corporation (Philippines)	Based in the Philippines for two years, working alongside Maribeth de Montaigne on the development of the Global Green Power renewable-energy platform. Engaged directly with local farming communities, agricultural cooperatives and host barangays; contributed to socio-economic and community-development programme design, stakeholder engagement, education and the platform's community 'social licence'. This on-the-ground grounding in Philippine rural communities, local government and farmer engagement directly informs School Aid's Philippine objectives — education and community development alongside the Panay programme.

Key expertise for School Aid

- Education & curriculum programme design — IB PYP/MYP and multiple national curricula (British, New Zealand, Portuguese, Chinese, Brazilian).
- School start-up, team building and IB accreditation.
- Safeguarding and child-protection policy and practice.
- Grant strategy, crowdfunding, and investor relations & pitching.
- EdTech and AI-supported education design (agentic AI, GPT-4/Claude, prompt engineering; Toddle, ManageBac, Seesaw, PowerSchool).
- Proprietary framework design (PPPP™, WEITS™); inclusive and special-educational-needs teaching; child-centred social work.

Safeguarding & child protection

Built a school safeguarding policy from scratch, served on safeguarding and wellbeing committees (2015–2022), and practised social work protecting abused and at-risk children from infancy to age 18 — the core competence behind School Aid's mandatory safeguarding standards and the safeguarding review in its Country Cultural & Context Protocol.

Research & publications

- 'Evaluating Thinking Routines for Concept-Based Curriculum' — Master's thesis, 2015.

- 'Multisensory Learning for Students with Learning Differences' — published, World of Dyslexia Ltd, 2011.
- Action research — 'ICT to Support Teaching and Learning' (2016–2017) and 'Visible Thinking Routines for Conceptual Learning' (2014); ongoing action research with Research Schools International (2021–2024).

Committees & leadership roles

- Chair, PYP Curriculum Self-Study (2012–2014); Safeguarding Committee (2019–2022); Wellbeing Committee (2015–2019); Student Council Advisor (2017–2019).

Charity & volunteer work

- Art-therapy volunteer, Cheshire Home (Portugal) — creative expression and wellbeing for adults with disabilities.
- Youth and community outreach, Cascais — support and fundraising for underprivileged families.
- Volunteer teacher and mentor, remote village education programme, Southeast Asia.

Languages

English (mother tongue) · Portuguese (excellent) · Norwegian (beginner) · Mandarin (beginner).

Ring-fenced assignment. Nichola's Panay/Philippines education work is delivered by School Aid MTÜ and is operationally and financially ring-fenced from Biomass Asia Inc. It supports community and farmer education around biochar benefits, but is legally and financially independent of the commercial venture.