



A home to anyone committed to healthy transitions and attachment security.
We connect, equip and refresh transitions-care providers.

WHAT WE OFFER



Community

We offer community for transitions-care providers to share good practices and forge meaningful connections.



Courses and Workshops

We provide professional learning opportunities for education leaders, school staff, parents, students and other professionals.



Consulting

We equip and empower individuals, schools, organizations and networks to transform transitions-care for their community members.



Resources

We offer practical resources that enhance transitions-care knowledge and practice.



Membership

We offer memberships for individuals, schools, organizations and small businesses.

OUR STORY

The international education community faces common challenges with cross-cultural transitions, affecting students, parents, and staff. SPAN brings together professionals, parents, and students involved in transition services to share the latest research, good practices and foster collaboration among international schools.

CONNECT

SPAN aims to ensure the well-being of globally mobile students, parents, and staff by maintaining transition support standards, and equipping and refreshing those on the front lines. SPAN's network nurtures a strong community where members share a sense of belonging and commitment to promoting positive transitions-care.

EQUIP

Regardless of your experience with transition or transition-care, SPAN plans to meet you where you are. We offer curated resources, pathways to enhance your transitions-care program, and an opportunity to engage with and belong to a community of like-minded professionals.

REFRESH

Our goal is to help ourselves and others manage the stress, distress and chaos of transition, so we can get on with learning, loving, growing, stretching, cross-cultural competence and joy: all the things we launched into the international world to do wisely and well.

Meet the SPAN Team



Julia Love

Director of Engagement



Jane Barron

Director of Training
& Consulting



Aleka Bilan

'The Nest' Host



Catalina Gardescu

Director of Communications



Valérie Besanceney

Executive Director



Doug Ota

Founder & Advisor



Claudine Hakim

Board Chair



Ruth Van Reken

Board Vice-Chair



Rami Madani

Board Member



Mona Stuart

Advisor in Residence



Graham Ranger

Board Secretary



Michael Iannini

Board Treasurer



SPAN SUPPORTING PARTNERS

SPAN supporting partners are schools and organizations whose mission and goals are aligned with our own, and whose services complement those we provide to the SPAN community. We work together as we strive to enhance transitions-care globally through meaningful collaboration, mutual support, and the exchange of information.



Relocate
GLOBAL

SPAN AT A GLANCE:

SPAN was created in 2017 and became an official not-for-profit foundation in 2019.

SPAN has equipped 100+ Laws of Transitions Certificate Course Alumni across 40 different schools and organizations worldwide.

SPAN's Member network includes individuals from over 50 schools and organizations across the globe.

SPAN's team includes researchers, educators and experts in positive transitions-care from five different continents.

SPAN hosts an annual virtual Symposium showcasing the latest research and good practices in positive transitions-care.

SPAN's monthly free and award-winning online gathering 'The Nest' is celebrating its fifth season in 2023.

"Mobility across cultures can be one of the richest sources of learning and personal growth that life has to offer. But these benefits are only likely to occur when mobility's massive challenges are managed well."

-Douglas W. Ota author of
Safe Passage: How mobility affects people & what international schools should do about
(2014)



SPAN MEMBER SCHOOLS

SPAN Member Schools and Organizations believe in the value of positive transitions-care. They choose to invest in SPAN because they are committed to healthy transitions, attachment security and the empowerment of training within and across schools and organizations.



International
School of London



The International School
of The Hague



Copenhagen
International
School

TESTIMONIALS FROM SCHOOL LEADERS

ISKL is proud to be a member school of SPAN. We truly value the support and guidance the team at SPAN brings to this important aspect of school life that impacts not only new arrivals, leavers and stayers, but also those moving between grades, divisions, and programs. I encourage all school leaders to consider becoming a SPAN member school. This work is not only meaningful, but it is critical for any international school.

Rami Madani

Head of the International School of Kuala Lumpur

As SPAN's oldest standing Member School, ISL strongly values the pioneering work spearheaded by SPAN. The guidance and resources provided by SPAN paved the way for ISL to design its multi-award winning Transitions-Care Programme. By becoming a SPAN Member, schools gain a unique platform to network and share good practice with other schools committed to fostering positive transitions-care for students, families and staff.

Richard Parker

Head of the International School of London

TESTIMONIALS FROM SPAN MEMBERS

The Laws of Transitions course provides the tools that international education professionals need in order to build a transitions care program from the ground up. It also grows a community of like-minded individuals that can help support each other through the process and build new ideas together.

There are so many rich ideas and resources gathered throughout the course, I have a template for developing our transitions program. I am now much more prepared to present to the HoS and advocate for a formal Transitions Team and have some documents from which a team can begin their work. I feel empowered.



SPAN WORKSHOPS

Our current customized workshop offerings include (but are not limited to):

- **The Experience of Transitions:** Reframing transitions so that we're looking from the perspective of those actually making the transitions provides important insights into our policies, programs and practices. This workshop is tailored for **staff** seeking to foster well-being through intentionally designing meaningful transitions experiences for students, parents and staff.
- **How Positive Transitions-Care Cultivates Identity and Belonging:** "The need to attach to a community is a given at all phases of the transition cycle. The prudent and responsible international school sees its own role and responsibility in being that community and transitional object people can attach and hold on to — both when they're new and after they leave." (D.Ota) This interactive workshop explores effective strategies for **school leadership and staff** to equip and support students, families and staff navigating transitions, fostering an authentic sense of identity and belonging in your school community
- **Positive Transitions for Learning and Life:** Tailored for **students or parents**, this enriching workshop focuses on Identity and Belonging for Cross-Cultural Kids (CCKs) and the process of transition. Participants gain valuable insights, language, and practical tools to navigate their unique transition stages, manage emotions, and address unresolved grief. These knowledge and skills enable individuals to proactively embrace the transition process, thrive in the face of challenges, and play a pivotal role in nurturing a culture of transitions-care within the school community.
- **Best Practice in Helping Students Transition to International Higher Education:** Explore effective strategies for guiding students through international higher education transitions. Learn how well-managed transitions can enhance cross-cultural learning experiences, equipping students with essential 21st-century skills for thriving in diverse settings. This **staff or parent** workshop draws upon the latest research on transitions-care, provides a springboard for school and university sector leadership conversations and supports participants to help their students thrive as they transition from school to higher education anywhere in the world.
- **The Process of Transition:** Life is a continuous journey of transitions, spanning from birth to the end of our days, encompassing roles as arrivers, stayers, and leavers. "As long as life is going to be full of plot twists, why not spend more time learning to master them?" (B. Feiler,) This engaging and adaptable workshop, suitable for **students, parents, or staff**, provides the ideal learning opportunity to develop transitions navigation skills that underpin mental wellbeing and resilience. Equipped with valuable tools to comprehend the process of transition, students, parents, and staff gain agency and confidence in navigating any of life's transitions, contributing to a deeper self-awareness and stronger emotional wellbeing.
- **Introduction to Positive Transitions-Care:** This workshop for **schools, parent associations and organizations** offers insights into the essentials of positive transitions-care. Addressing fundamental questions—What is positive transitions-care? Why is it significant? How can it be embedded into a school or organizational community?—this session leverages the latest research, policies, and practices to equip participants with vital knowledge for fostering a culture of care and well-being in international educational settings.



THE LAWS OF TRANSITIONS CERTIFICATE COURSE

Foster a culture of care and wellbeing in your international school or organizational community by embracing the principles of positive transitions-care. Elevate your skills, deepen your understanding, and gain practical insights through the deconstruction and implementation of the Six Laws of Transitions, developed by SPAN Founder, Drs. Douglas W. Ota.

Why learn about the Six Laws of Transitions?

Unmanaged transitions across cultures and schools can negatively impact personal and educational growth. **Well-managed transitions, however, have the potential to greatly enrich both personal and educational journeys.** In this comprehensive online learning series, we will deconstruct each law of transitions outlined in Drs. Douglas Ota's book, *Safe Passage: How mobility affects people & what international schools should do about it*, to guide you and your school or organization towards optimal transitions-care policies and practices. **By applying the knowledge, skills and strategies gained in this Certificate Course, you will be equipped with solid foundations for fostering a sustained culture of care and wellbeing.** These foundations will empower educational and workplace professionals to excel in their roles, enable parents to navigate transitions with confidence and support students in thriving throughout their learning journey.

Who takes this course?

The Laws of Transitions Certificate Course is designed for **individuals**, as well as **school and organizational groups** who are committed to nurturing positive transitions-care for their students, families and staff members. Since positive transitions-care work can be more successful in teams, discounts are provided for schools/organizations registering groups.

What to expect?

- Three to four hours of independent learning per module.
- One office hour with the course facilitator/s in week 1.
- Two live and interactive sessions of one-hour duration, usually in weeks 3 & 6.
- Additional time may be required when canvassing the perspective of others or working with colleagues.
- The final learning assurance task will require a minimum of four hours work.

