

LSE Generate Impact Report

2023-2024

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Foreword

As the Head of LSE Generate, it is my privilege to introduce this year's Impact Report—a reflection of the creative vision and extraordinary achievements of our entrepreneurial community over the past year.

LSE Generate was founded on the belief that entrepreneurship is not just about building businesses but about fostering a mindset—one that embraces curiosity, purpose, and a commitment to shaping a much-needed more sustainable and equitable world. Today, that belief is stronger than ever as we see our founders tackling some of the world's most pressing challenges, from climate change and social inequality to financial inclusion, freedom of speech and health innovation.

This report showcases the tangible impact of our work, from the ventures that have grown under our support to the global networks we have cultivated. Over the past year, we have expanded our reach, deepened our collaborations, and invested strategically in the next generation of changemakers. Our funding initiatives, mentorship programmes, and international opportunities have empowered founders to think beyond conventional models and build solutions that create meaningful change.

Behind every statistic and success story in this report are people—students, alumni, mentors, investors, and partners—who embody the inclusive and resilient spirit of Generate. Their passion and commitment are what make this community so special, and I am continually inspired by their drive to redefine what is possible.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to our mission: to support and nurture entrepreneurs who are reimagining the future, driving innovation with purpose, and proving that business can, and indeed must be a force for good. We hope this report not only highlights our progress but also serves as an invitation to those who share our vision to join us on this journey; more is more!

Thank you to all who have been part of this incredible year. We look forward to building on this momentum and continuing to create impact, together.

LJ Silverman

Head of LSE Generate



Executive Summary

LSE Generate is London School of Economics and Political Science's (LSE) home for entrepreneurship. It supports LSE's aspiring entrepreneurs, establishing entrepreneurship as a mainstream career path for students and alumni, nurtures entrepreneurial mindsets, and supports start-ups to grow and scale.

As part of the School's entrepreneurial ecosystem, Generate sits within [LSE's Research and Innovation division](#), interacting with students and alumni studying the various entrepreneurial courses on offer at the University, and collaborating with different areas of the School such as LSE Careers, the Marshall Institute, PfAI and the Student Union network.

More widely, Generate sits within LSE's wider [2030 Strategy](#) to be the leading social science institution with the greatest global impact. At an institutional level over the next five years, the University aims to sustain excellence through an inclusive and diverse community, to extend its impact and reach globally, and to create a sustainable future. This report explores how Generate's global platform and diverse network is strongly placed to support the delivery of these missions.

LSE was recognised as the UK's most outstanding entrepreneurial university in 2022, along with other global awards and achievements. In 2024 Generate was ranked 6th in Europe's Top 10 Leading Start Up Hubs and the highest in the UK (in both 2024 and 2025)

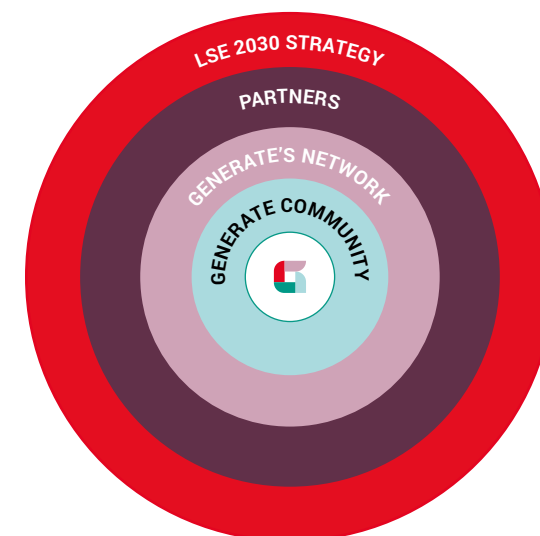
by the Financial Times, Statista and Sifted. Generate's ambition for the future is to maintain and enhance this international recognition and impact it is having. LSE produces more entrepreneurs than any other UK university, with 11.1% of LSE alumni becoming entrepreneurs at some point in their careers¹.

Generate delivers a structured portfolio of end-to-end entrepreneurship support, offering a wide range of programmes and facilities, including the [GenDen](#), business clinics, the Generate Accelerator Programme (GAP), and start-up competitions.

Entrepreneurship can be both rewarding and challenging. Many founders struggle to access the right support and build a strong network that allows them to create a sustainable business. Generate's "village" approach ensures entrepreneurs receive the right support at the right time, while making strong social capital accessible to all. Beyond mentorship and guidance, Generate offers a comprehensive support model that spans every stage - from idea to scale to eventual exit. Early-stage founders are guided through the process of refining their ideas. For entrepreneurs looking to scale, tailored assistance helps them to reach target markets and access investment for long-term growth.

Generate's international reach extends across five continents through its International Chapters programme, with hubs in major cities including San

How Generate sits within LSE's entrepreneurial ecosystem:



- Generate
- our **community** of entrepreneurs, students and alumni
- our **network** of experts, mentors, international chapter leaders, and investors
- our **partners** (other universities, accelerators, departments in LSE, etc)
- **LSE's 2030 Strategy**



Francisco, Paris, Singapore, Mumbai, and Lisbon. Over 76% of Generate's alumni entrepreneurs operate beyond the UK, supported by strategic partnerships with institutions such as Founders Factory Africa, Sciences Po, and EDHEC. Regional collaborations with organisations like the Brazilian Bar Association and Impact Hub Kigali have enabled LSE founders to access market-specific knowledge and connect with key industry players across different regions.

Beyond the university, Generate has cultivated a comprehensive entrepreneurial ecosystem through its Startbook platform, which connects ventures with 60 sector-specific mentors, commercial partners, and investors. Generate facilitates networking through investor speed-networking events and startup showcases, while the Corporate Innovation Lab focuses on ESG-centered and UN SDG-aligned innovations.

What makes Generate unique is its deeply supportive, caring and inclusive approach to entrepreneurship, and its building of an ecosystem which links promising entrepreneurs with investors. As one founder explained, the Generate team takes a holistic approach: "The team looks beyond 'business success' and cares about the founders in different dimensions, always trying to support the whole journey and not just the start-up related activities". A key ingredient in Generate's success is its strong sense of community.

Generate has worked hard to create diverse and inclusive entrepreneurship initiatives such as Female Founders, the DNA Programme, and the Race Equity Cluster.

Traditionally, entrepreneurship has been primarily associated with purely financial success. Generate's initiatives however highlight the importance of social entrepreneurship, showing how building social impact into the foundations of a business can be a viable business model. Generate's programme shows entrepreneurs how to underpin social impact with viable business models, incorporating both purpose and profit from the get-go. This approach works - 4 out of 5 of all Generate-supported businesses are actively addressing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)². This demonstrates Generate's success in fostering socially responsible entrepreneurship while maintaining strong commercial partnerships.

Generate's impact on entrepreneurs across the world in 2023-24, as explored in this report, provides a strong foundation to support LSE in continuing and enhancing its global impact and reach.

Key Findings:

1. This year has seen over **13,000** interactions with LSE Generate, such as event sign-ups, attending mentoring sessions or taking part in development programmes.³
2. **£70,000** of total funding given to LSE Generate start-ups through the Start-up Competition and Generate Accelerator Programme.⁴
3. Ventures supported by LSE Generate have created **98** new full-time or part-time jobs⁵
4. **177** have signed up to LSE Generate's investor catalogue.⁶
5. LSE Generate's mentorship and support, with a **Net Promoter Score of 75**, demonstrates a care-centered approach prioritising positive mental health and wellbeing can boost founder confidence and resilience.⁷
6. **81%** of businesses in the LSE Generate ecosystem align to 1 or more of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.⁸
7. **£5,706,751** total venture capital committed to Generate start-ups to date.⁹
8. **542.5 hours** of coaching and support given to LSE Generate entrepreneurs.¹⁰
9. Generate creates inclusive spaces and empowering opportunities for diverse founders - **53.9%** of Generate's community are women¹¹, **8%** have a disability, mental health condition or impairment. **24.2%** are first generation of their family to attend university.¹²

Section 1

Introduction and Overview



Introduction

LSE Generate is London School of Economics and Political Science's entrepreneurship hub, designed to transform students and alumni into successful entrepreneurs through comprehensive support, training, and mentorship. In 2023-24, Generate continued to expand its impact reaching more entrepreneurs around the world.

LSE continues to stand at the forefront of entrepreneurial education and innovation, with 27 unicorn companies in its global ecosystem. Thanks to Generate the university has received numerous recognitions, including being named Most Outstanding Entrepreneurial University (2023) at the Times Higher Education (THE) Awards, and ranking 6th in Financial Times' Europe's Top 10 Leading Start Up Hubs (2024).

LSE's 2030 Strategy aims to create global impact through social sciences by focusing on three areas: excellence with global reach, diversity and inclusion, and sustainability. Generate's work directly advances LSE's 2030 Strategy through three key pillars:

- 1. Education for Global Impact:** Offering year-round inclusive experiences for students and alumni, Generate has created pathways for people to develop socially responsible business at every stage of their entrepreneurial journey. Generate has delivered training in practical skills and helped people to translate theory into real-world impact.
- 2. Research for the World:** The team has generated original thought leadership around entrepreneurial innovation in partnership with academics in the Department of Management and Finance, while platforming key stakeholders in the entrepreneurial ecosystem. A majority of businesses supported by Generate are working towards at least one UN Sustainable Development Goal, demonstrating the value of social sciences in addressing global challenges.
- 3. Developing LSE for Everyone:** Through its global and diverse community of alumni connected to 20 international hubs, Generate offers entrepreneurial support, industry connections and a range of opportunities. It champions diversity through targeted programmes for under-represented founders, such as women, people of colour and those from the LGBTQ+ community. The programme also provides skills development and entrepreneurial training for those in schools or in the corporate world.

Awards and recognitions this year:

Most Outstanding Entrepreneurial University (2023) at the Times Higher Education (THE) Awards

Winner of Best Entrepreneurial Team at the Triple E Awards (2023)

6th in Financial Times' Europe's Top 10 Leading Start Up Hubs (2024)

Highly Commended in the National Enterprise Educators Awards 2024, Enterprise For Good Award

Finalist for Community Engagement Initiative of the Year Award, Triple E Awards 2024

Looking ahead, Generate's delivery plan deepens the strategic alignment with LSE's 2030 strategy through three core commitments:

1. To position Generate as a global hub for socially responsible entrepreneurship
2. To enable 100% of LSE students to access entrepreneurial training and resources
3. To establish LSE Generate as a global sector leader in entrepreneurship research and policy

Operating within LSE's Research and Innovation division, Generate serves as a crucial bridge between the School's academic mission and its global impact aspirations. It is perfectly positioned to help drive LSE's 2030 strategic aims to create a sustainable future, and to extend the university's international impact. The integration of entrepreneurship courses across 50% of LSE departments demonstrates the substantial embedding of entrepreneurial thinking within the academic curriculum.

Generate's comprehensive support structure encompasses various specialised programmes. Through the Startup School for first-time entrepreneurs, business clinics, and the GenDen, founders receive guidance in ideating, defining clear missions, developing robust business models and preparing for investment. Inclusion initiatives such as the Female Founders Programme, DNA Programme for disabled and neurodivergent entrepreneurs, and the Race Equity Cluster ensure entrepreneurial opportunities are accessible across diverse communities.

The programme's ecosystem approach brings together multiple stakeholders through its Startbook platform, which maintains a network of 60 sector-specific mentors and connects founders with commercial partners and investors. The Corporate Innovation Lab serves as a bridge between academia and industry. It equips students with the in-demand skills and mindset needed to thrive in corporate innovation environments while supporting organisations with innovative business transformation activity. Through Generate's interactive education programmes, it offers tailored courses, pop-up days, and site-visits that delve into the principles and practices of innovation.

Generate's dedicated accelerator, GAP, sets itself apart from traditional accelerators through its inclusive approach to supporting both ventures but also lifestyle businesses. This past year's cohort welcomed 10 of LSE's most promising early-stage startups, representing diverse sectors from HealthTech and Sustainable Fashion to Food & Beverage. The programme's commitment to social responsibility is evident in its dedication to supporting businesses working towards at least one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Previous research in 2023 found that 89% of LSE supported businesses had retained or increased their staff numbers from last year, including hiring 34 LSE graduates, for a total of 697 jobs created by LSE start-ups¹³.



Available data from ventures supported by the Generate Accelerator Programme in previous years (2022 and 23) **indicates a start-up survival rate of 87.5%**¹⁴. In contrast, in the UK on average around 20% of startups fail within the first year, while 60% fail by year three¹⁵.

Going forward, Generate is keen to continue supporting the **25,000 active alumni businesses** and the 27 unicorns in its ecosystem - a testament to its remarkable legacy in fostering long-term and impactful entrepreneurship.

LSE Generate's Village approach

Generate takes a “village” approach to provide a collaborative and supportive ecosystem for students, alumni and entrepreneurs. The network of support and connection emphasises the value of community, mentorship and resource vital to building a thriving entrepreneurial culture.

The following icons appear on overview pages throughout the report to indicate which elements of Generate’s “village” are helping to drive forward impact.



Programmes and initiatives

Generate delivers a comprehensive global programme creating impact, new opportunities and social capital for its vast ecosystem of entrepreneurs. Below is a snapshot of the programming delivered in 2023-24.

Core Programmes



Start-up Competition

A structured exercise for entrepreneurs to pitch their business ideas to an audience and panel, and receive feedback, coaching and funding



Mentoring and business support clinics

Structured 1-to-1 sessions for students to get personalised feedback and support for their business ideas



Start-up Showcase

An Investment Catalogue where founders can showcase their businesses to an audience of investors, advisors and mentors



The GenDen

A dedicated co-working space for entrepreneurs to focus, collaborate and socialise



Generate Accelerator Programme

The flagship accelerator initiative, which provides funding, resources and structured support to a cohort of 10 LSE start-ups per year



Clusters and verticals

Special programmes and events for Generate's areas of interest such as Food and Beverage, woman entrepreneurs and disabled or neurodiverse founders



Capacity-building and expert-led events

A diverse range of events, panels and workshops which provide specialist guidance and expertise to entrepreneurs

Level Up Programme

A series of 7 workshop events, which provide guidance and top tips for all stages of the business lifecycle (Generate describe it as "everything you need to know to launch a business")

International Programmes



International Chapters

19 global hubs and ecosystems across the world, which enable LSE alumni to continually network and receive entrepreneurial support. Grants awarded for Social Innovation, enable Generate to enhance LSE social science excellence on an international scale.

LSE Generate Schools Programme



LSE Generate Schools Programme

A global initiative designed to engage primary and secondary school students from diverse backgrounds, and to support them to increase their leadership skills, confidence and entrepreneurial mindset

Unique Projects and Initiatives

International Science Partnerships Fund Project in Mumbai

A programme of workshops and training sessions delivered to school students in Mumbai, to support them with leadership, creativity, and problem-solving skills

Bootcamps and Retreats

An exchange programme for female founders and entrepreneurs to increase skills in social entrepreneurship, and build social capital. Delivered as part of the Student Women Economic Empowerment Programme.

UK-South Africa Knowledge Exchange (SWEET)

A series of trips and visits to specific locations for cohorts of founders and aspiring entrepreneurs. Designed to enable attendees to gain new entrepreneurial skills, and to expand their network

International Science Partnerships Fund: Kenya Female Founders Campaign

An awareness campaign about menstrual hygiene, and a series of events which supported female founders in Nairobi to pursue social entrepreneurship.

2023-2024 in Numbers:

13,378

interactions with Generate throughout the year¹⁶

4,217 entrepreneurs

signed-up to attend Generate events¹⁷

204 events & workshops

delivered to entrepreneurs and students¹⁸

1,049 people

attended events and panels providing specialist industry guidance and expertise¹⁹

336 hours

invested by Generate ambassadors in event organisation and participation, and partnership work²⁰

A Strong Community:

249% increase

year-on-year in people registering as part of the Generate community²¹

975 new signups

to the Generate community (now totalling **2,198** entrepreneurs)²²

1,527 seats

booked in the GenDen co-working space²³

234 women founders

engaged and supported through **49** events²⁴

Nurturing Entrepreneurial Shoots:

2,650 school students

engaged in Summer School, Intrapreneurship programme and pitch competitions²⁵

50 school students

completed internships at LSE Generate²⁶

International Reach:

19 global hubs

and ecosystems across the world

Providing Support and Guidance:

446 hours

of support given to founders on the Generate Accelerator programme²⁷

269 hours

of Business Support Clinics delivered²⁸

267 mentoring matches

made between volunteer mentors and aspiring entrepreneurs²⁹

3,988 people

recorded attended events and panels for industry guidance and expertise³⁰

Section 2

Empowering Entrepreneurship



With a focus on:



How Generate Empowers Entrepreneurship

The LSE Generate team offers comprehensive support to individuals and ventures across four programme areas: core, international, schools, and special projects. Through events, talks, competitions, and bootcamps, entrepreneurs at every stage can access the support, advice, and knowledge they need.

Through its extensive programme, Generate empowers individuals to develop their ideas, hone their skills, and scale their enterprises. Support is offered throughout the life cycle of an entrepreneur. School children and early stage entrepreneurs through to later stage innovators can access tools, connections, and guidance to develop, refine and scale their business ideas. Initiatives like the International Science Partnerships Fund Project demonstrate how Generate's approach fosters a mindset shift, encouraging young people to see themselves as job creators and changemakers. This emphasis on early-stage support and empowerment reinforces Generate's role in nurturing the next generation of innovative leaders.

Meanwhile, founders are able to access a unique proposition of traditional business support (such as mentoring, and funding) alongside unique opportunities for peer-to-peer connection, learning and development. Through mentorship programmes and workshops, Generate ensures that founders have access to both expertise and real-world insights at all stages. By creating opportunities for networking and cross-disciplinary learning, LSE Generate helps transform ideas into sustainable businesses while equipping entrepreneurs with the resilience and adaptability needed to navigate challenges.



Talks and Events



In the academic year 2023-24, Generate delivered 204 events, workshops and panels to provide specialist guidance and skills to entrepreneurs about business development. The workshops and panel discussions provided “very non-intimidating advice for those just setting out on their journey” according to one entrepreneur who attended the ‘From PhD to Entrepreneurship’ panel³¹.

Generate’s events ranged from providing business skills training and expert advice, to more specific guidance within particular industries, such as in the food and beverage industry. The events were widely popular for the entrepreneurs, with 97.1% of attendees saying they were likely to recommend them to friends and colleagues³². The food and beverage industry events were particularly popular, with 100% of attendees saying they would recommend them to friends and colleagues³³.

Meanwhile, feedback from teachers, whose students participated in the International Science Partnerships Fund Project in Mumbai, which helps to empower young people into entrepreneurship, noted that they felt that their students now “see potential in themselves as changemakers by creating jobs and not just doing jobs.”

204

workshops and events delivered by Generate to its entrepreneurs and students³⁴

3,988

people attended Generate’s events and panels, providing specialist industry guidance and expertise³⁵

97.2%

of attendees of Generate’s events rated the facilitators and speakers between 7/10 and 10/10³⁶

Secure your spot

Explore Generate’s upcoming events, workshops and talks [here](#)



Learning and Skills Development



“The workshops were amazing and I learnt many things that I didn’t know even after two masters in business and 15 years of professional experience”

GAP 2024 entrepreneur

A key tenet of LSE Generate’s delivery is the entrepreneurial education and skills development offered across its programme. From the Generate Accelerator Programme (GAP) or workshops in schools through to Business Support Clinics, the building of practical knowledge and skills is key to Generate’s offer.

Participants are supported to build skills and knowledge across a range of areas including:

- Design thinking principles
- Problem-solving
- Theory of change methodology
- Communication skills (for pitching and presentations)
- Leadership and team working skills

“Lisa helped me with the big picture of the pitch but also with small details to get the most out of it. She really guided me and helped me to feel more confident with my pitch, always giving constructive feedback and precise recommendations.”

GAP 2024 entrepreneur

Entrepreneurs supported by Generate have highlighted the value of receiving training around public speaking and communication, a vital skill for landing new business and investment alike. Founders from this year’s GAP programme in particular have highlighted that their confidence in presenting to an audience increased significantly over the course of the programme.

500

students engaged in Intrapreneurship programme via LSE International Chapters³⁷

100%

of participants in LSE Generate’s training workshop on public speaking said they would recommend it to friends and colleagues³⁸

Level Up



Level Up, a seven-session course delivered by Generate, demonstrates how the team supports people to sharpen their skills and knowledge to be better equipped entrepreneurs. This year the course guided 346 people through business development, sales and marketing with sessions on building MVPs, balancing profit and purpose, understanding financials, how to reach customers and validating business ideas.

94.4% of attendees of sessions in the Level Up programme rating the session as 'Good' or 'Excellent',³⁹ and 90.6% of Level Up participants said they were likely to recommend the programme to friends and colleagues.⁴⁰

This feedback highlights Generate's commitment to

making entrepreneurship accessible and empowering from the very start. By providing non-intimidating guidance, Generate helps entrepreneurs build confidence in their ideas, ensuring they feel supported rather than overwhelmed.

346

people took part in 2023-24 Level Up programme⁴¹

38%

of attendees were international

GenDen

The [GenDen](#) is Generate's co-working home on campus, a first of its kind at LSE. Located at the heart of the university, it is free to use for LSE students and alumni. Designed in collaboration with social enterprises, single mothers, and young artists, the space embodies a theme of empowerment and inclusivity. It welcomes students, alumni, and their co-founders at all stages of their entrepreneurial journey, providing an environment where they can collaborate, build connections, and focus on their businesses.

More than just a workspace, GenDen fosters a community beyond the classroom, offering a place for networking, casual conversations, and meaningful interactions with like-minded individuals in a calming and supportive environment. Other creative and entrepreneurial ecosystem partners are also invited to use this space for knowledge sharing and capacity building purposes.

“I made great connections for my company in the sense of learning, I got to know about GAP and Level Up. I had no idea LSE was doing so much in terms of entrepreneurship until I came into the GenDen”

Kanubriyah Batri, Founder of Speak

Those who use the GenDen value its versatility, using it for a wide range of essential activities such as developing code, funding bids, contracts, business strategy and operational improvements. The variety of work being conducted from GenDen shows the space is successfully supporting diverse entrepreneurial activities. Its central location makes it an ideal hub for meetings and in-person check-ins with team members and clients. The dynamic and collaborative environment encourages the forging of new relationships and the exchange of ideas, creating a space where entrepreneurs can share insights and develop their business.

This year saw 283 individuals making 898 bookings for a total of 1,527 seats⁴² (to be used by themselves and their team). This year saw 22%⁴³ of bookings made by people using the GenDen space for the first time.

GenDen sees a mix of users but it has particularly strong alumni engagement, demonstrating the value that LSE Generate plays in continuing a relationship with LSE students once graduating.



This year at the GenDen:

1,527

seats booked throughout the year in the space⁴⁴

283

people made use of the Gen Den this year

22%

used GenDen for the first time this year⁴⁵

58%

of GenDen users are LSE alumni⁴⁶

GAP

The Generate Accelerator Programme (GAP), is LSE Generate's flagship accelerator initiative. It provides funding, resources and structured support to a cohort of businesses. This year saw 10 businesses supported on the programme.

Post-programme feedback revealed that GAP founders expanded their entrepreneurial network, and gained the skills and tools they needed to develop their business strategy and scale their start-up.

Entrepreneurs on the GAP programme felt positively impacted by their experience with GAP. Entrepreneurs said at the start of the programme that they "felt stuck" and "wanted to be a part of a start-up community".

"It was one of the best and rewarding experiences of our lives."

GAP Participant 2024

The cohort of 17 founders shared that the programme really supported them to develop their business strategy, and scale their start-up. For example, one founder said that, because of GAP, "We are targeting new customers with a clear strategy (and getting more customers as a result!)." Meanwhile another shared that "We have a more structured sales process now, and we have a more clearly defined strategy in the next 2 years."

"My business went from idea to launch during the programme"

GAP Participant 2024

Many said that the Generate team were "amazing", supportive and caring. One beneficiary shared that he LSE team "were super helpful and it always felt like we could speak with them".

Some entrepreneurs emphasised that GAP had enabled them to develop business models and strategies which are targeted on creating positive social impact and social change. One entrepreneur shared that the programme "builds a real community" and "oils the engine of future social change."

A key impact for many entrepreneurs was the financial resources they received. One founder said they "couldn't have afforded" to be part of the programme without it, while another emphasised how it "alleviated the pressure" on them.

10 ventures

supported through programme

17 founders

developed skills through workshops, events and structured mentorship⁴⁷

£40,000

in grant funding provided to GAP ventures⁴⁸

446

hours of support given to founders⁴⁹

33

hours of cohort chats and social events

100%

would recommend programme to another LSE founder⁵⁰

70%

had never participated in a similar programme to Generate before⁵¹

90%

rated the programme at 8/10 or higher⁵²

Case study: Kanupriya Batra

Developing ecosystems for growth and innovation

Kanupriya Batra's journey with Speek illustrates how education, skills development, and lifelong learning can empower stakeholders through social entrepreneurship. Kanu, a trained biotechnologist with 15 years of experience in digital health, co-founded Speek in 2022 to address the critical issue of youth self-harm and mental health. Drawing on lived family experiences, Speek was created to provide parents with intervention programmes to build skills, knowledge, and support systems, while developing future solutions for young people themselves.

Through Generate, Kanu learned the importance of experimentation over premature technological investments. She focused on delivering Speek's services through simple tools like Zoom and online calendars, proving that meaningful impact can be achieved without immediate reliance on custom technology.

Kanu's engagement with LSE Generate's GAP accelerator in 2023 was pivotal in advancing Speek. The programme offered practical workshops on financial projections, growth hacking, and fundraising, while mentors like Tim and Lisa provided tailored guidance on user acquisition and pitch development. Kanu highlights the value of Generate's approach, blending expertise with emotional and practical support to ensure grounded, actionable progress.

Kanu continued her engagement with Generate by co-founding the 'Entrepreneurs Pledge' - creating a community where entrepreneurs passionate about LSE's vision could support aspiring founders by making philanthropic donations.

"The content was just phenomenal, just the whole methodology that they follow in the GAP accelerator, from, you know, the problem, to identifying the market, the financials and everything. It's very well-prepared content... but what makes LSE kind of different is in how they do entrepreneurship, because it is a lot of expertise, but wrapped around with a lot of support, which I've not heard of other universities or other incubators or accelerators providing."

She now prioritises enjoying the entrepreneurial process over achieving specific goals, with a conscious effort to regularly check in and ensure they are finding fulfilment in their work, hoping that in five years they can look back and appreciate the journey itself, regardless of the outcome.



Find out more about Speek Health [here](#)

LSE Generate Champions Social Impact

Across its programme LSE Generate helps entrepreneurs to develop socially responsible businesses. Through a range of events and tailored programmes LSE students, alumni and entrepreneurs develop their thinking and strategy around how enterprise can be a force for good in society.

Programmes such as the Sustainable Venture Building Bootcamp and the SIE Summer Bootcamp demonstrate targeted activity to help individuals realise their social aims alongside business goals.

A majority (81.3%)⁵³ of participants from the SIE Summer Bootcamp (an event for LSE students on the MSc Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship students) agreed that they had improved the knowledge around social innovation by taking part in the programme with nearly two thirds stating that they had gained new practical skills in social innovation and entrepreneurship. Moreover, an impressive 95% of participants in LSE Generate’s Sustainable Venture Building Bootcamp agreed that it had improved their knowledge about starting and building a sustainable business⁵⁴.

In summer 2024, LSE Generate hosted a UK visit of the Student Women Economic Empowerment Programme (SWEEP). South African women entrepreneurs were introduced to the UK’s entrepreneurial ecosystem to inspire, educate and stimulate ideas for impact driven businesses. The strength of LSE Generate lies in its

global reach, through programmes and events such as SWEEP it helps to drive best practice and knowledge back into that ecosystem and therefore strengthen socially responsible business practice beyond the UK.

Socially responsible business is embedded in LSE Generate’s entrepreneurial community. Of all entrepreneurs who have signed up as active community members since inception, only 197 out of 1,193 businesses⁵⁵ indicated that they are not a social impact company. Since inception, 81% of ventures that are signed up to Generate’s community have stated that their activity aligns with at least one or more of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)⁵⁶.

This table illustrates the number of ventures (from 2021 to 2024) that are aligned to Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG	Ventures
Good Health and Wellbeing (SDG 3)	386
Decent Work (SDG 8)	365
Reduced Inequality (SDG 10)	327
Gender Equality (SDG 5)	296
Quality Education (SDG 4)	291
Industry Innovation (SDG 9)	284
Responsible Consumption (SDG 12)	241
Sustainable Cities (SDG 11)	238
Climate Action (SDG 13)	216

Schools Programme

LSE Generate Schools Programme is an award-winning initiative delivered in partnership with OakNorth. Operating across primary and secondary, in both state and independent schools, nationally and internationally, the programme harnesses Generate's entrepreneurship excellence and founder network to nurture enterprise skills in the next generation.

The programme has demonstrated particular success in reaching under-represented communities, with 49.5% of participants coming from low-income families and ethnic minorities⁵⁷. Its mentorship component has achieved remarkable engagement, with over 100 mentors participating and unanimously expressing willingness to continue their involvement.

'The LSE Generate Schools Programme allowed me to develop teamwork skills and the ability to make decisions because our business was only successful when everyone played their parts. Also, gaining problem-solving skills helped us as we encountered multiple obstacles and successfully managed to overcome them.'

Year 12 Student

With the programme running over an academic year, the programme consists of mentorship alongside a series of bootcamps throughout the academic year, students develop essential entrepreneurial capabilities. The curriculum focuses on building resilience, design thinking, empathetic leadership, and learning from failure. Students work on creating businesses from scratch, developing critical thinking skills, creative talents, and the confidence to take calculated risks.

The programme culminates in a Demo Day where students pitch their social enterprise ideas to a panel of LSE founders, staff, and industry experts. Outstanding teams receive awards and opportunities for internships at LSE Generate.

Each programme is carefully tailored to complement schools' existing learning objectives, ensuring that entrepreneurial education enhances rather than disrupts the academic curriculum.

The Schools Programme is not only impactful for students on the programme it is also an impactful experience for those who help to deliver sessions, such as alumni and mentors.



59

schools engaged through programme⁵⁸

121

workshops and events delivered across 4 continents⁵⁹

2,939

students took part in workshops, fairs and pitch events⁶⁰

400+

hours of mentorship delivered⁶¹



Case study: Eve

Developing ecosystems for growth and innovation

Eve, a Year 13 student from Belvedere Academy, participated in the LSE Generate Schools Programme during Year 12, where she transformed an initial jewellery business idea into Care Crown, a non-profit supporting refugee women with essential self-care products.

Inspired by the talks and coaching she received early on in the programme, Care Crown was born from Eve's research into the needs of refugee women in Liverpool's economically disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Partnering with organisations like Refugee Women's Connect, her team distributed care packages containing items such as toothbrushes and shampoo. Guidance from mentors like Kathy helped refine their idea and scale its impact. Eve's confidence and entrepreneurial spirit flourished through LSE Generate's ecosystem.

"It opened my eyes, not to say it's easy, but just see how an idea can start and then how you can keep going with it and transform it into the company Care Crown is today."

The programme's collaborative ecosystem that connects students with mentors, peers, and industry professionals at local and national levels gave Eve the chance to engage with peers across regions, fostering teamwork and relationship-building.

"I think it definitely builds your confidence... to be able to go from a normal school day, to presenting and talking to business people, going to networking events. When I went, it was business people who own businesses, it was intimidating, I thought "I don't own one," but then I realised, yes, I do. So, I was able to talk to them, get advice and learn from them. It was brilliant."

Despite challenges like team attrition, Eve stepped into a leadership role to ensure the continuation of Care Crown, helping the team to navigate hurdles and achieve recognition with awards for People's Choice and Most Innovative Idea. With her appetite for entrepreneurship and marketing truly ignited, she is currently applying for Marketing degrees at university and Marketing apprenticeships.

Section 3

Strengthening Entrepreneurial Resilience and Wellbeing



With a focus on:



Introduction

While the previous section explored how LSE Generate empowers entrepreneurs through skills development and knowledge, equally important is how the programme supports founders' resilience and wellbeing, critical factors in entrepreneurial success. This section examines Generate's approach to strengthening these essential qualities.

Generate's programme delivery and the approach of their team are designed to support the mental health, wellbeing and resilience of founders and entrepreneurs. At every stage of the entrepreneurial journey, LSE Generate founders are supported to cope with the challenges of launching and scaling a start-up.

It's clear from participant feedback that the team takes a highly personalised and supportive approach with their entrepreneurs. This builds confidence and capacity in individuals to overcome adversity.

Young people and entrepreneurs report feeling supported by the LSE Generate team. Post-programme feedback reveals how aspiring entrepreneurs felt most supported with public speaking and communication skills and that support received from the Generate team helped to contribute to a feeling of shared community and connection.

Generate's support for entrepreneurial resilience and wellbeing spans across its impact activity, from primary school students to later-stage entrepreneurs and PhD students in support sessions.

269

business support clinics
provided to entrepreneurs⁶²

9.3/10

average rating given by
entrepreneurs to support clinics⁶³



LSE Generate's Culture of Support



“Ruben was very patient in listening and was very genuine in sharing his insights and experiences. He recommended useful resources and made me feel backed and supported by him and LSE Generate”

Attendee of Growth Marketing business clinic

The LSE Generate team nurtures a strong culture of support empowering entrepreneurs to build their confidence, resilience and overall wellbeing. Despite the vast international reach of LSE Generate, the team has managed to root their culture with a human-centred approach. Prioritising personalised mentorship, peer-to-peer connections and holistic entrepreneurial development

Entrepreneurs consistently highlight the programme's personalised approach, describing the team as “accommodative,” “approachable,” and deeply invested in ensuring participants feel encouraged rather than demotivated. This approach is evident in various programme elements such as:

Retreats: Providing time and space for entrepreneurs to connect, reflect and share their journey

Workshops: Designed to meet the needs of a diverse cohort (such as Visa Routes for International Entrepreneurs) or develop “soft” skills such as online networking, public speaking and pitching.

Individualised mentorship: Creating a safe space entrepreneurs to share ideas, challenges, and successes with experienced business mentors

LSE Generate's “village” approach ensures that entrepreneurs receive the right support at the right time, making resources accessible to all communities. People are given the time and space to explore the personal and emotional dimensions of entrepreneurship. This allows founders to navigate the challenges of launching and scaling their businesses with confidence.

“The team looks beyond ‘business success’ and cares about the founders in different dimensions, always trying to support the whole journey and not just the startup-related activities.”

Extending beyond traditional business support with a holistic and inclusive approach is a key success factor for LSE Generate's programme. This model distinguishes LSE Generate not just as an incubator for business success but as a vital long-term partner invested in the long-term growth and wellbeing of entrepreneurs and their ventures.

Mentorship and Specialist Support

Generate's mentorship and specialist support is delivered by advisors and experienced entrepreneurs through 1-to-1 sessions and business clinics, typically lasting 30 minutes.

Across the academic year, Generate delivered 142 1-to-1 mentoring sessions⁶⁴, 53% of these sessions were utilised by current LSE students⁶⁵. The mentoring sessions are a valuable element of LSE Generate's offer, receiving a high net promoter score of 75.2%⁶⁶.

Generate also delivered 269 business support clinics to founders of start-ups⁶⁷. These provided the founders with specific guidance based on the stage, business model and sector of their start-up, and were rated on average at 9.3/10⁶⁸.

"Paroma is an outstanding advisor: she is empathetic, has great listening skills, is intuitive in detecting needs, and is always amazing at providing practical advice and connecting me to experts who may further help."

Recipient of mentorship

"My mentor in the LSE Generate programme was not just very experienced and knowledgeable, but she was also very kind, understanding, and supportive."

Recipient of mentorship

Entrepreneurs shared that they felt strongly supported through Generate's mentorship initiatives, which provided them with access to a wealth of knowledge, industry experience and new connections.

On a personal level, many beneficiaries emphasised that the Generate team took a highly personalised and supportive approach, which positively impacted their wellbeing.

Generate's mentorship also enabled entrepreneurs to build new connections. Throughout the year a total of 550 connections⁶⁹ were forged through mentor sessions and business clinics. On average each entrepreneur has made 3 new relationships⁷⁰ through participating in these sessions.

142

mentoring sessions delivered⁷¹

75.2%

average Net Promoter Score for mentoring sessions⁷²

269

business support clinics delivered to founders, providing focused guidance and specialist expertise⁷³

97.5%

of attendees ranked their sessions between 7/10 and 10/10 for how much they helped them⁷⁴

550 connections

created in the LSE Generate ecosystem through mentoring and support clinics⁷⁵

Case study: Raj Singh

Strengthening entrepreneurial resilience and wellbeing

Raj Singh, founder and CEO of Mind Hug, embodies resilience and personal transformation. After a decade in the corporate world, Raj's personal struggle with burnout and mental health prompted him to pursue a career pivot, leading him to explore psychology, neuroscience, and entrepreneurship. This journey culminated in the creation of Mind Hug, a venture focused on transforming well-being through helping individuals to address how they process information.

Launching Mind Hug just before the COVID-19 pandemic, Raj faced immense challenges but with a strong commitment to his vision, he pursued support from several London-based accelerators, ultimately landing a place on LSE's GAP accelerator programme.

Raj graduated from LSE in 2007 with a BSc in Economics, at a time when LSE Generate did not exist. However, after immersing himself in the London accelerator landscape, he soon learned of the promising programme offered by LSE Generate. The programme lived up to its reputation, providing more than just funding or business advice, it offered a community and ongoing support that fostered resilience. Like Kanu, Raj's experience with the programme also encouraged him to support Generate's Entrepreneurs' Pledge. Raj credits the accelerator's small, engaged cohort with helping him embrace focus and simplify Mind Hug's offerings, a transformative shift for his business.

LSE Generate's consistent mentorship and commitment to supporting their Alumni, even years after completing their accelerator, proved invaluable. The LSE Generate team of mentors made countless introductions for Raj with corporate and governmental clients that have enabled Mind Hug to evolve into a revenue-generating organisation. Through LSE Generate, Raj found not just practical guidance but also a nurturing environment that strengthened his resolve to tackle the complexities of entrepreneurship with clarity and purpose, and in doing so, allowed him to address the even bigger challenge of people's mental well-being.



Find out more about Mind Hug [here](#)

Financial Support, Grants and Investment

Reliable access to finance, whether through investment capital or grant funding, is not merely beneficial but essential for entrepreneurial resilience and founder wellbeing. Financial resources provide the necessary buffer against market volatility, enable founders to weather challenging periods, and create sustainable pathways for venture growth.

Since 2021, startups within the Generate ecosystem have secured £5,706,751 in venture capital funding⁷⁶ demonstrating how financial backing strengthens founders' ability to build sustainable ventures during economic uncertainty.

"The stipend was very important. It's the first external money we received and it validated what we're building to some extent. It also allowed us to test marketing and build part of the product."

GAP 2024 entrepreneur

"I don't think I could have afforded to be part of the program without a stipend at this stage of the business."

GAP 2024 entrepreneur

Generate's annual Startup Competitions serve a dual purpose: they help entrepreneurs refine pitching skills while creating pathways to critical early-stage funding. The competitive experience builds psychological resilience, while the financial rewards directly contribute to venture stability. Generate awarded £30,000 to competition winners⁷⁷ providing crucial financial support at a stage when founders are most vulnerable to setbacks.

The £4,000 equity-free grant for GAP participants delivers multiple resilience benefits: it allows founders to dedicate focused time to their ventures without financial strain, reduces personal stress, and provides external validation that strengthens entrepreneurial confidence. For many, this initial support creates the psychological safety needed to take calculated risks—a key component of entrepreneurial resilience.

£40k

grant funding distributed to 10 businesses on the GAP accelerator this year⁷⁸

£30k

funding given through the 2024 Startup Competitions⁷⁹

£5,706,751

total venture capital committed to Generate startups so far⁸⁰



Section 4

Building Social Capital



With a focus on:



International
Programmes



Events



Bulletin Board

How LSE Generate Creates Thriving Entrepreneurial Ecosystems

Beyond personal resilience, entrepreneurial success depends significantly on access to strong networks and ecosystems. The following section explores how LSE Generate creates and nurtures these vital connections for founders.

For early-stage entrepreneurs, success is rarely a solo pursuit. Research shows that social capital, the strength of one's professional and personal networks, plays a pivotal role in entrepreneurial success. Access to the right connections can unlock funding, mentorship, and critical business insights, while strong peer networks provide much-needed emotional resilience, collaboration opportunities, and strategic partnerships.

Generate understands that entrepreneurial ecosystems thrive when founders are deeply embedded in networks of support. More than just a funding or skills-building programme, Generate is a catalyst for meaningful connections, helping entrepreneurs expand their professional networks, access expert mentorship, and find a sense of belonging in a like-minded community.

By intentionally designing opportunities for networking, knowledge exchange, and peer-to-peer support, Generate ensures that founders do not navigate their journeys alone. Whether through the GAP, bootcamps or start-up competitions, participants consistently report building valuable professional relationships and lifelong friendships.

Why does this matter? Studies in entrepreneurship and innovation (e.g., the work of Brad Feld on startup ecosystems and AnnaLee Saxenian on regional innovation networks) emphasise that founders with strong networks are more likely to secure investment, pivot successfully, and sustain long-term growth. Entrepreneurial success is not just about having a great idea, it's about having the right people around you to help make it happen.

Through these programmes, founders gain:

- Access to industry experts, investors, and mentors who provide tailored guidance and open doors to new opportunities.
- Stronger peer networks, offering collaboration, encouragement, and a shared sense of purpose.
- A deep sense of belonging, reinforcing that entrepreneurship is not just about individual success but about collective growth.

A guiding north star of Generate is supporting established and aspiring founders to build meaningful connections that have a long lasting impact on their journey into social entrepreneurship. The Generate team are relentless in supporting founders to make connections with industry experts, specialist speakers and like-minded peers and friends to collaborate with, which underpins the social capital it creates within its ecosystem.



Generate's Ecosystem



The Generate ecosystem includes a diverse network of start-up founders, commercial investors, LSE alumni, corporate sponsors, educational institutions, and other strategic partners - spread across the UK and internationally.

Generate's international presence spans five continents, fostering global entrepreneurship through strategic partnerships and international chapters in major cities such as San Francisco, Paris, Singapore, Mumbai, and Lagos. With over 74% of Generate alumni entrepreneurs operating internationally, they benefit from market-specific events and tailored support. Generate is able to tap into the valuable wider LSE network.

In North America, partnerships with Cornell University provide LSE startups with dedicated interns and access to a women founders leadership programme. In Europe, Generate's pioneering membership in the G2E Network connects LSE founders with France's top university entrepreneurship groups while Sciences Po prepares to support a sustainable fashion accelerator bridging Paris and Mumbai. In Africa, collaborations with Africell and Impact Hub Kigali provide leadership training and direct exposure to agricultural and rural development. Meanwhile, in Asia, Generate's partnership with United World College expands entrepreneurship education across Southeast Asia, starting in Singapore. By integrating academic institutions, industry leaders, and regional

development agencies, Generate has built a robust global support network.

Generate's sector-specific initiatives further strengthen its impact. The Food & Beverage programme has played a pivotal role in launching over 200 alumni-led businesses, with notable success stories including globally recognised brands such as HelloFresh, Franco Manca, Miso Tasty, Love Corn, and Five Guys.

Beyond the university, Generate has cultivated a comprehensive entrepreneurial ecosystem through its various events, programmes and activities. Generate's Startbook platform connects nearly 80 ventures and 100 founders with 60 sector-specific mentors, commercial partners, and investors. The platform facilitates networking through investor speed-networking events and startup showcases, while the Corporate Innovation Lab focuses on ESG-centered and UN SDG-aligned innovations. This demonstrates Generate's success in fostering socially responsible entrepreneurship while maintaining strong commercial partnerships.

The Generate team makes this multi-dimensional ecosystem navigable and accessible to entrepreneurs throughout their journey. Providing an invaluable resource for founders to leverage experience, connections and knowledge.

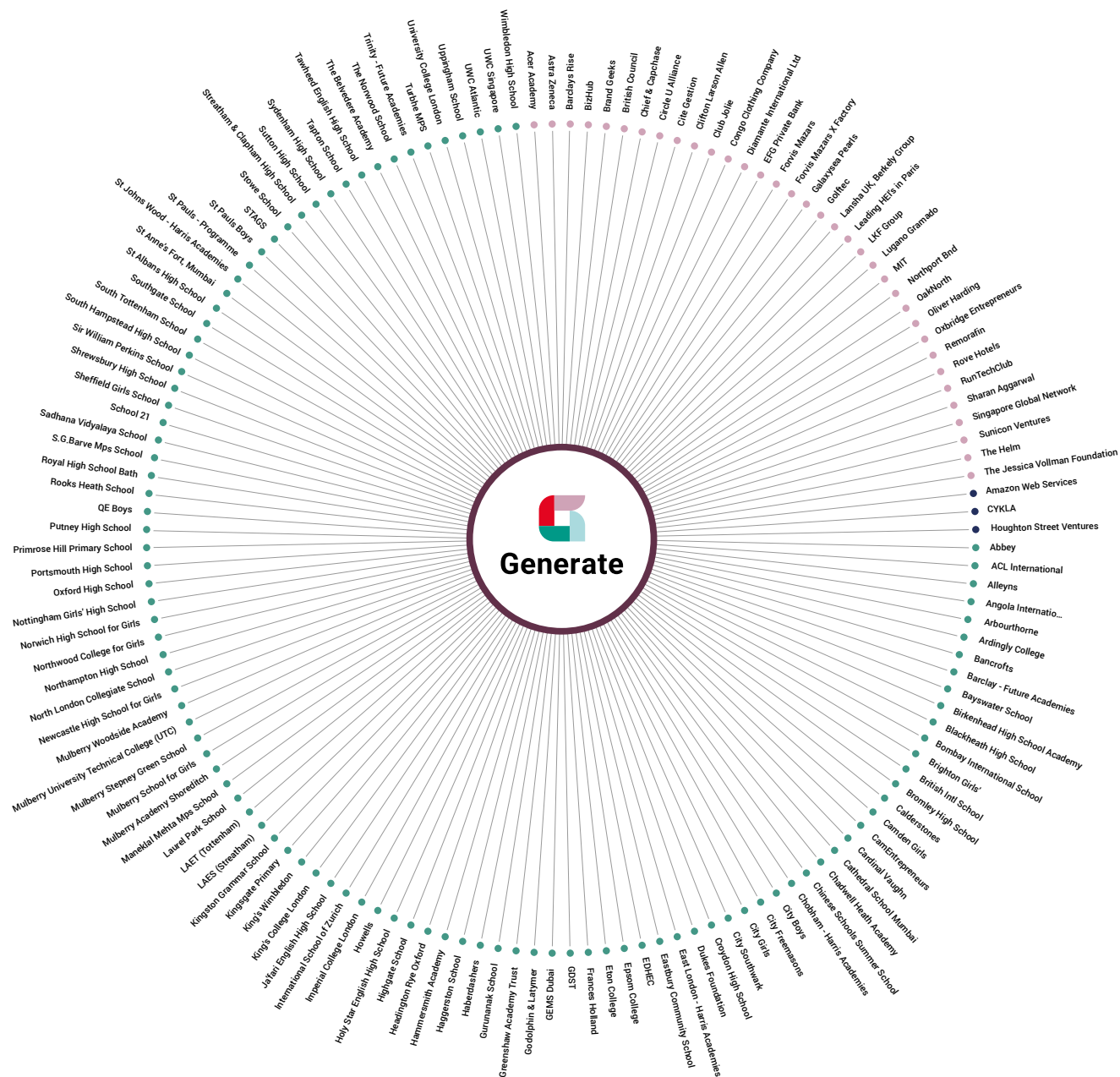
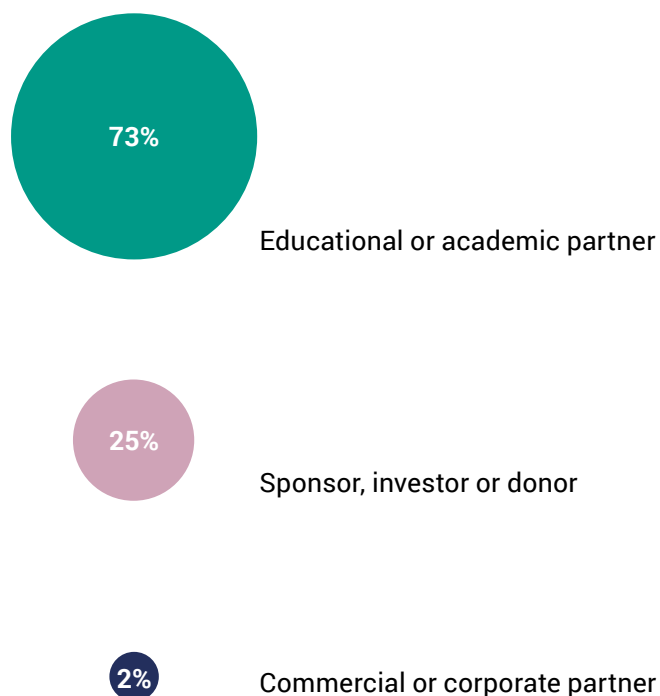
Support LSE startups

See how you can support entrepreneurs with advice, investment and mentorship



Exploring Generate's Ecosystem

This visualisation shows a snapshot of Generate's ecosystem. It shows **145** organisations and individuals that Generate connects its community to.



Generate's Corporate Innovation Ecosystem

Generate prides itself on building a platform which is specifically designed for commercial funders that are driven to create positive social impact through their investments. To do this, Generate continually builds and expands its network with socially-responsible corporate and financial-sector partners.

At the heart of this work, Generate's Corporate Innovation Lab is a strategic hub for promoting collaboration and innovation with corporate partners. It is an ecosystem in itself, which bridges the gap between promising start-up founders, and experts and leaders in commercial industries.

Across the academic year, Generate piloted two global corporate innovation initiatives, which delivered leadership training, and enabled new connections to be built between entrepreneurs and investors in Mexico, The Gambia and Sierra Leone.

FutureScape Forum in Mexico City, in partnership with AstraZeneca

21 March 2024, Mexico

Partnering with AstraZeneca, Generate delivered the FutureScape Forum - a sustainable health summit event in Mexico City. The forum created a platform and opportunity for new health start-ups to connect with industry leaders and academic experts.

Aspiring and established entrepreneurs alike were connected through:

- Keynote talks on 'The Convergence of Humanity and Healthtech' - with presentations on case studies for tackling cancer through new technologies, and the role of universities as incubators for entrepreneurship
- Strategic networking opportunities - including a start-up fair, contemporary artistic performance, and salon reception sponsored by Cité Gestion SA Private Bank
- A panel discussion on disruptive health tech and new primary care solutions, with a focus on the Latin American context
- Deep dive forums on the topic of funding for health start-ups, and the future of digital health data

Executive training in collaboration with Africell

22 November 2023, The Gambia and Sierra Leone

In 2023, Generate partnered with Africell - a leading mobile network operator in Africa - to create new leadership and networking opportunities in The Gambia and Sierra Leone. The collaboration delivered shared learning sessions, alongside strategic activities for networking and strengthening business links between the UK and Africa.

Key impacts delivered by the partnership:

- Bespoke training courses on intrapreneurship, innovation and leadership
- A two-day workshop with Africell employees in The Gambia, sharing the unique insights of successful Gambian-American entrepreneur Dr Ismail Badjie
- Students engaged at Fourah Bay College, with an educational session facilitated by Sierra Leone's Ministry for Technical and Higher Education (MOTHE)
- A Q&A with H.E. Salima Monorma Bah - Sierra Leone's Telecommunications Minister
- Evening reception for networking, and celebrating the business links between Sierra Leone and the UK. Attended by nearly 100 LSE alumni, Chevening Scholars, Commonwealth Scholars, cross-party Government officials and others
- A penultimate event focusing on innovation in Africa on the LSE campus, hosted by Africell and LSE's Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa

By creating these international opportunities for commercial partnership and relationship-building, Generate demonstrates how well-placed it is to support the LSE's 2030 goal to extend its global impact and reach.



“This joint programme between LSE, MOTHE and Africell is the first of its kind to take place in Sierra Leone and we expect it to be the start of an ongoing partnership which gets bigger and better every year.”

Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara, Deputy Minister of MOTHE

Generate's Ecosystem as a Resource for Founders



"I feel like I know more about business (which has reassured me a lot) and like I have a network of people I can rely on for different questions".

GAP participant

Generate plays a pivotal role in cultivating a dynamic and supportive ecosystem for entrepreneurs. The team enables founders to expand their networks, access valuable resources, and develop a deep sense of community. Generate's ecosystem has proven to be an invaluable resource for entrepreneurs as they navigate the challenges of building and scaling their ventures.

The most significant means of support for entrepreneurs is the facilitation of meaningful connections with industry experts, mentors, peers and potential collaborators. The intentional design of the structured programming, events, workshops and workspace (GenDen) create an environment with numerous opportunities for people to grow the networks and establish long lasting relationships.

A key example is the GAP programme, which has been particularly impactful in broadening participants' professional circles. Participants have expressed how the programme, by design, enables access to "an excellent network of entrepreneurs and experts" where people are willing to support you.

Beyond professional networking, Generate's programmes have cultivated a strong sense of belonging and community among entrepreneurs. Many founders have noted that the relationships built through the ecosystem go beyond business connections, providing emotional and peer support as well.

"I think one of the best outcomes for such bootcamps is understanding that there are like-minded people with similar values who are aiming to do the same as you are trying to do. It gives you both, the feeling of community, and the feeling of confidence in the direction you've chosen"

**Sustainable Venture Building
Bootcamp participant**

Join the community

Sign up to access to Generate's newsletter, programmes, co-working and community



Case study: Daniel Parekh-Hill

Empowering entrepreneurship through network building

Daniel Parekh-Hill's entrepreneurial journey illustrates how the LSE Generate programme empowers aspiring entrepreneurs to develop purpose-driven businesses. A BSc Economics graduate (2015), Daniel transitioned from investment banking to founding Flare, an e-commerce tech company offering scheduled delivery solutions to optimize business operations and improve customer experience. His venture was born from frustrations with traditional e-commerce inefficiencies and honed through LSE Generate's resources.

After completing the Entrepreneur First programme, Daniel joined LSE Generate's GAP Accelerator in 2022. The programme provided critical funding, mentorship, and access to a collaborative co-working space, GenDen. Mentors like Tim and Ruben offered tailored advice based on their entrepreneurial experiences, helping Daniel navigate challenges, build resilience, and prioritize key business problems effectively.

"Mentors, Tim and Ruben, both experienced entrepreneurs, have been part of many businesses, they've built robust business models, they've scaled their business, they've scaled their team. Have gone through a bunch of other learnings as well, and they're able to navigate and apply those to our business."

Daniel is incredibly grateful for the emotional support and extensive mentor network provided by Generate, describing it as a space where entrepreneurs are understood and supported throughout their journeys. Winning Generate's GAP funding competition and connecting with LSE alumni angel investors catalyzed Flare's growth, enabling the company to secure contracts with clients generating \$600 million in revenue.



Find out more about Flare [here](#)

An International Network of Entrepreneurs

Generate has established a strong global presence enabling it to engage with an international entrepreneurial community. In the 2023-24 academic year, 32.2% of those entrepreneurs who registered with Generate engaged were based outside of the UK⁸¹ (see chart 1), highlighting the Generate's international appeal.

Generate's global reach is further reflected in the diverse programming. In the 23-24 academic year, 28.5% were hosted outside of the UK⁸², with key locations including Mexico, India, Brazil and the United Arab Emirates (see chart 2). These events play a crucial role in sharing knowledge, opportunities, building connections and strengthening relationships between entrepreneurs on a global scale.

Beyond event participation, Generate supports founders to launch and scale their ventures internationally. Analysis of 90 LSE ventures shows they are spread across the globe, with 10% operating in Africa, 14.4% in Asia, and 24.5% across the Americas⁸³. These ventures span a wide range of industries, reflecting the diverse impact of Generate's support. Key sectors include digital health and healthcare (14.8%), creative industries and media (10.6%), education and edtech (7%), and climate tech, energy, and sustainability (6.3%)⁸⁴.

32.2% **28.5%**

of those registered with
Generate in 2023-24 are
based internationally⁸⁵

of Generate's events hosted
outside the UK⁸⁶

Chart 1: Community member continent of origin

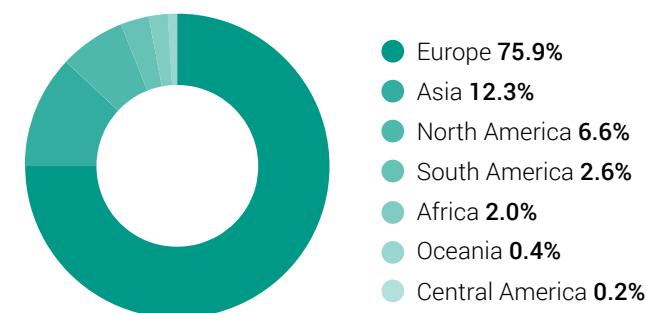


Chart 2: Event locations 2023-24



International Chapters

Generate's strategic and global approach to building social capital is underscored by its International Chapters initiative. The international chapters are global hubs spread across the US, Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East. They provide a cross-border platform and community for LSE alumni to continue to engage with each other, and to benefit from Generate's entrepreneurial support.

The international chapters continue to connect LSE alumni with each other, ambassadors, mentors, investors, and industry experts. They support entrepreneurs to continue launching and scaling their business ideas long after they have left university. The chapters have provided entrepreneurs with access to co-working spaces, networks, donations and employment opportunities.

19 hubs

located internationally, from Mexico to Malaysia⁹⁰

4 global locations

for Women founder events, including LA, New York, Singapore and Malaysia⁸⁷

13 events

delivered in the academic year, ranging from South East Asia to South America⁹¹

22 ambassadors

allocated to support alumni entrepreneurs across the international chapters⁸⁹

200 women

founders across the globe engaged through the Female Founder Mastermind initiative, and provided with start-up resources⁸⁸

5

summits and conferences partnered with⁹²

266 hours

dedicated by Generate ambassadors on event organisation and partnership⁹³

70 hours

given by Generate ambassadors as speakers, panellists and moderators⁹⁴

LSE Generate’s International Hubs



 [Learn more about Generate’s International Chapters here](#)

International Chapters Spotlight: Paris



“Our goal is to create a ripple effect – when we invest in women entrepreneurs, we strengthen our entire community. Through this series, we’re not only providing valuable resources but also cultivating a space where collaboration and support drive success.”

Florence Sardas, Chief Transformation Officer and Founder of ‘XFactory’ at Forvis Mazars

Launched in October 2023, the Paris International Chapter has gone from strength to strength. With a dedicated team of three International Ambassadors the city has hosted 5 events, reaching over 150 LSE alumni founders and ecosystem operators.

Two academic and one corporate partnership were formed, solidifying Generate’s commitment to providing entrepreneurial programming to the LSE community and adding value to the wider entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Event highlights:

- Paris Launch: LSE Changemakers
- LSE Generate x EDHEC Event: From Setback to Success: Celebrating Failure
- Women Founders Breakfast x 2
- Paris Innovator Social with exited founder, Laurent Potel

Partnerships highlights:

One of the Women Founders Breakfast held in collaboration with Forvis Mazars accelerator programme led to the launch of ‘The Women Founders’ Table, Paris Edition’. This collaborative initiative is dedicated to supporting and empowering women founders through skills-building, networking, community building and mentorship.

Kicking off in January 2025, the series will bring together successful entrepreneurs, industry experts, and women founders for breakfast sessions designed to inspire growth, innovation, and connection within the community of women-led businesses.

Generate entrepreneurs and Forvis Mazars’ ‘XFactory’ are already making their mark on the Paris landscape having worked with Unicorn startup ManoMano and the recently acquired Reezocar, both of which have based their headquarters in the European capital.

100%

of women founder breakfast attendees rated their experience at 10 out of 10⁹⁵

67%

of event attendees forged new connections⁹⁶

50%

of event attendees rated their experience as 10 out of 10⁹⁷

Section 5

Equal Opportunities in Entrepreneurship

With a focus on:



Introduction

While building robust entrepreneurial ecosystems serves all founders, LSE Generate recognises that historically, entrepreneurship has not been equally accessible to all. This section examines how Generate is working to create more equitable opportunities across diverse communities.

Generate creates equal opportunities for entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds and lived experiences, who have historically been under-represented in entrepreneurship. This is achieved by programming specific events and initiatives targeted at marginalised and under represented groups. And, through a considered focus on building and supporting a diverse and inclusive community ecosystem on a global scale. Generate's village approach (the idea that it takes a village to raise a business) means that careful consideration is taken to offer events, networks and programming to people at any stage of entrepreneurship, agnostic of industry, location or business stage.

This year Generate continued to deliver dedicated and targeted initiatives providing founders with opportunities to pursue an entrepreneurial pathway, meanwhile creating an inclusive and supportive environment. For example, the Generate Women Founders Retreats provided opportunities for Women founders to build connections, gain support and learn new skills.

412 sign-ups

to dedicated events and sessions for under-represented entrepreneurs⁹⁸

253

women founders supported through women founder focused events and initiatives⁹⁹

10%

of those registered with Generate in 2023-24 identify as LGBTQ+¹⁰⁰

24%

of those registered with Generate are from families where both parents did not go to university¹⁰¹

The Diversity of Generate's Community and Team

The Generate ecosystem comprises a diverse and international community of entrepreneurs who are keen to be part of a community. This is illustrated by the scale of registrations (people sharing their information in order to sign up to Generate's newsletter, Slack channel and GenDen coworking space). This year saw 975 people register, expanding the total of registered community members to 2,198¹⁰². Generate's code of conduct for community members encourages entrepreneurs to engage in the community with inclusivity, support, empathy and collaboration as key driving values, ensuring the ecosystem creates equitable spaces and opportunities.

Generate supports a diverse community of entrepreneurs, which represent a cross-section of society. Generate's engaged community of entrepreneurs include:

- **53.9%** women¹⁰³
- **24.2%** who are the first generation in their family to go to university¹⁰⁴
- **8%** who have disabilities, impairments or mental health conditions¹⁰⁵
- **75.8%** heterosexual, **7.7%** bisexual, **2.9%** lesbian or gay¹⁰⁶

Of 2,198 entrepreneurs in Generate's engaged community there are a diverse range of ethnic backgrounds¹⁰⁷.

Generate prides itself on its diverse team, which enables it to relate to and best support its beneficiaries from a wide variety of backgrounds and lived experiences.

2,198

people have registered to be part of the Generate community since 2021.¹⁰⁸

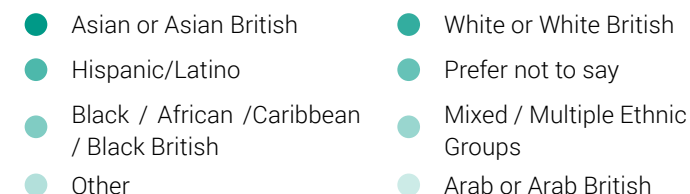
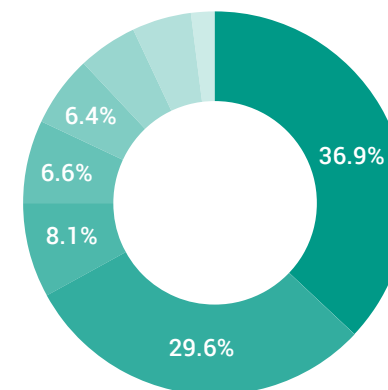
975

signed-up to the Generate community in 2023-24 (a 249.4% increase from last year).¹⁰⁹

75%

of Generate's ambassadorial team are women.¹¹⁰

Generate's community make up:



Creating Equitable Opportunities



Across the academic year, Generate successfully created new and equitable opportunities for its diverse entrepreneurs and student body. From supporting young school students in Mumbai, to creating dedicated spaces for women founders through retreats and talks, and supporting founders with building connections and social capital at their bootcamps.

The SWEEP initiative (a UK-South Africa knowledge exchange programme dedicated for women founders) provided events and workshop sessions for 96 women entrepreneurs¹¹¹. Programming including topics such as social entrepreneurship, pitching training, financial social enterprises, and building a minimum viable product. Attendees reported that they experienced a high positive impact across the programme, with 100% saying that the programme made them feel more confident to start their own social business, and to work in the field of social entrepreneurship¹¹².

While the programme helped to increase awareness about the types of support, resources and opportunities

available for aspiring female entrepreneurs, it also helped to build a sense of belonging. 92.3% of participants agreed the programme enabled them to build their network in the field of social entrepreneurship and helped them to feel part of a community of aspiring female founders in South Africa¹¹³.

“I forged a few connections with future female founders and am grateful for the support I’ve received from them.”

SWEEP Participant

Women Founders Retreat



“When women support one another, they harness a powerful force that can drive innovation, inspire inclusivity, and foster environments where equal opportunities aren’t just an aspiration but a reality.”

Women Founders Retreat participant

The Women Founders Retreat 2024 brought together seven inspiring women entrepreneurs from Latin America, Eastern Europe, and the Philippines for an immersive experience designed to support their business growth and leadership development. In providing dedicated spaces and opportunities for women founders, the retreat is yet another example of how Generate supports diverse entrepreneurs to engage in social entrepreneurship.

Hosted in Lisbon as Generate’s first retreat dedicated to their international community, the retreat provided a dynamic and collaborative space where founders focused on a holistic approach to entrepreneurship, aligning their personal values to business goals, embedding social innovation practices into the business model and strengthening their empathetic leadership skills.

Key highlights:

Workshops & Discussions: Attendees participated in sessions covering leadership, company culture, strategic communication, marketing, community building and funding

Expert Mentorship: The retreat featured experienced mentors from LSE Generate’s network, offering insights on entrepreneurial challenges and growth strategies

Global Community Building: By bringing together founders from different regions, the retreat fostered cross-cultural connections, collaboration, and a strong support system

A Collaborative Approach: The retreat strengthened connections with Casa do Impacto, Nova University and Impact Shakers

As part of Generate’s revenue generating programmes, the retreat raised £2,500 which was put directly back into the wider Women Founders Programme. The second International Women Founders Retreat is projected to raise £8,00 and will be taking place in Thailand in February 2025.

By the end of the retreat, participants left equipped with actionable strategies, new perspectives, and a network of like-minded women committed to driving change in their industries. 90% of attendees rated their experience 10 out of 10, with 100% of attendees intending to keep in touch after the retreat¹¹⁴.

Case Study: Haja Isatu Bah

Creating inclusive spaces for entrepreneurship to thrive

Haja Isatu Bah, founder of Uman4Uman, embodies the transformative power of inclusive entrepreneurship. Growing up in Freetown, Sierra Leone, Haja's journey began with a scholarship to study in Norway, where she first gained exposure to education around menstrual hygiene. This exposure, combined with her passion for the environment and supporting women, sparked her desire to address period poverty in marginalised communities.

While pursuing her undergraduate degree in New York, Haja founded Uman4Uman, a social enterprise addressing period poverty by producing reusable menstrual pads and delivering educational workshops to help young women challenge the systemic barriers they face while simultaneously promoting environmental sustainability. After launching her business, Haja continued her academic journey at LSE to study an MSc in Environment and Development. She was drawn to LSE for its strong intersectional focus and highly regarded African Leaders Programme. It was through Dr Paroma, one of her mentors on this programme, that she discovered the LSE Generate initiative, a space that became pivotal to her entrepreneurial growth.

Winning Generate's Startup competition in 2024 was more than an accolade; it was a validation of her vision and a platform to amplify under-represented causes in entrepreneurship. Haja credits the programme's

commitment to creating spaces where entrepreneurs like her can thrive by providing tailored support, networking opportunities, and a community that believes in her potential.

Mentors like Tim Deeson helped Haja navigate the complex landscape of business development, supporting her transition from an environmentalist to a purpose-driven entrepreneur who understands both social impact and financial strategy. She emphasises the importance of asking for help, highlighting that many of her breakthroughs came from speaking up and learning from her fellow cohort community. Through Generate, Haja not only gained the tools to scale Uman4Uman but also built a community that reinforced her vision: creating sustainable solutions for period poverty while championing diversity and inclusion in entrepreneurship.

Haja is now preparing to transition her enterprise to full-time operations, with plans to hire staff, establish a physical office in Sierra Leone, and expand into neighbouring Guinea. She dreams of scaling her enterprise to become a household name across West Africa.

"My whole focus in academia has been women in the environment and the intersectionalities that exist between the two. Menstrual hygiene is one thing that really stood out to me."



Section 6

Concluding Note



Concluding Note

LSE Generate plays the leading role in championing entrepreneurship within LSE and on a global scale. As a leading force in entrepreneurship, Generate has supported tens of thousands of individuals to pursue an entrepreneurial path. Their comprehensive programmes incorporate soft and hard skills development, mentorship and access to a valuable multi-dimensional ecosystem. Helping people to launch and scale their businesses, while creating positive social impact.

Generate acts as an accessible bridge between LSE and the world of enterprise. Exploring Generate through the outputs and outcomes of the 2023-24 academic year highlights three unique elements that supports its success:

1. International reach

With 19 global hubs - and more in the pipeline - Generate has a presence across five continents. This network of international chapters, global partners and events allows it and the entrepreneurs it supports to scale, innovate and develop on a larger scale than comparable university incubators. The interconnectedness allows access to unparalleled opportunities for founders to scale their ventures worldwide. Other Universities such as Imperial have now followed suit.

2. Brokerage within the ecosystem

The vast ecosystem of entrepreneurs, sponsors, commercial business, investors, mentors and beyond is a highly valuable resource. The Generate team makes it possible for entrepreneurs to easily connect to and access the various elements of the ecosystem. The value is not just experienced by entrepreneurs, all elements of the ecosystem benefit and derive value from Generate brokering connections.

3. Prioritising diversity

Generate has put diversity in its widest sense at the core of its offer. Whether it is an agnostic approach to venture industry or delivering targeted Female Founder initiatives, Generate's "village" approach ensures entrepreneurs receive the right support at the right time.

It is vital that Generate is able to continue to offer this blend of elements and enable more individuals, entrepreneurs and ventures to develop in the future.

Generate's international impact and reach to diverse social entrepreneurs provides a strong foundation to support the University in meeting its 2030 mission to be the leading social science institution with the greatest global impact. With exciting plans for expansion, collaboration, new partnerships and thought leadership in its Delivery Plan, Generate is well positioned to continue producing innovative global start-ups with a strong social purpose.



Appendix



Our Approach

This report has been compiled by Akou, an independent research and social impact agency. The report draws on data and feedback collected by the Generate team across the academic year. Findings have been arrived at by carrying out an in depth review and analysis of all available data. This has been complemented by supplementary surveys where possible, and a series of qualitative interviews with people who have participated in Generates initiatives. Throughout the report we make clear where there may be gaps in the data, and highlight all sample sizes and sources of findings.

To gain an understanding of the impact of Generate's initiatives and approach we developed a simple framework which aligns with Generates core strategic ambitions. AKOU's report presents evidence of how Generate has realised outputs and impact across these theme:

1. Empowering entrepreneurship and skills development
2. Strengthening entrepreneurial resilience and wellbeing
3. Developing ecosystems for growth and innovation
4. Creating equal opportunities in entrepreneurship

Important Note

This report was authored and developed by AKOU for LSE Generate. It is intended for general informational purposes only; no responsibility can be accepted for its contents being used by any third party.

The findings are based on the assumptions and data outlined throughout the report. While the sample sizes are sufficient for analysis, it should be noted that the responses do not cover every individual engaged with LSE Generate's services; therefore, the reasonable assumption has been made that the results are representative of the total.

The findings should be considered valid for a limited period and reviewed at regular intervals. All references and sources used in the development of this report are cited in the appendix or footnotes.

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End Notes

1	LSE Generate data, 2024	27	Generate Accelerator Programme data, 2023-24
2	Sign-ups and registration data, 2020-2025, n=2199	28	Business Support Clinics data, 2023-24
3	Total instances of engagement in LSE Generate programmes, 2023-24	29	Mentoring and Support Sessions Survey feedback, 2023-24
4	Generate sign-ups and registration data, 2020-2025, n=2199	30	Events attendees data, 2023-24
5	Back-end data to start-up platform	31	Programmes and events survey feedback, 2023-24
6	Investor Catalogue data	32	Programmes and events survey feedback, 2023-24, n=104
7	Mentoring and Support Sessions Survey feedback, n=105	33	Programmes and events survey feedback, 2023-24, n=27
8	Sign-ups and registration data, 2020-2025, n=2199	34	Combined workshops and events data, 2023-24
9	Back-end data to start-up platform	35	Events attendees data, 2023-24
10	GAP and start-up competition data, 2023-24	36	Programmes and events survey feedback, 2023-24, n=71
11	Register with Generate form, 2021-24, n=2128	37	International Chapters Impact Report, 2023-24
12	Register with Generate form, 2021-24, n=2114	38	Programmes and events survey feedback, 2023-24, n=7
13	LSE Generate data on start-ups, 2023	39	Level Up programme survey feedback, 2023-24, n=32
14	GAP start-up survival rate data, 2022-23, n=16	40	Level Up programme survey feedback, 2023-24, n=18
15	Horne (2022), How Many Businesses Fail in the First Year in the UK?, Available at: https://www.nerdwallet.com/uk/business/start-up-failure-statistics/ [Accessed 01 March 2025]	41	Level Up programme data, 2023-24
16	Total instances of engagement in LSE Generate programmes, 2023-24	42	GenDen desk bookings data, 2023-24
17	Eventbrite registrations data, 2024	43	GenDen desk bookings data, 2023-24
18	Workshops and events data, 2023-24	44	GenDen desk bookings data, 2023-24
19	Post-programmes and events survey feedback	45	GenDen desk bookings data, 2023-24, n=663
20	International Chapters Impact Report 2023-24	46	GenDen desk bookings data, 2023-24, n=898
21	LSE Generate sign-ups and registration data	47	Generate Accelerator Programme data, 2023-24
22	LSE Generate sign-ups and registration data, 2023-24	48	Generate Accelerator Programme data, 2023-24
23	GenDen desk bookings data, 2023-24	49	Generate Accelerator Programme data, 2023-24
24	Women Founder events data	50	Generate Accelerator Programme survey feedback, 2024, n=10
25	School students data for Summer School, Intrapreneurship Programme and pitch competitions, 2023-24	51	Generate Accelerator Programme survey feedback, 2024, n=10
26	LSE Generate Schools Programme Impact Report Autumn 2024	52	Generate Accelerator Programme survey feedback, 2024, n=10
		53	Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Summer Bootcamp survey feedback, 2024, n=16
		54	Sustainable Venture Building Bootcamp survey feedback, 2024, n=20

55	Register with Generate form, 2021-24	87	International Chapters Impact Report 2023-24
56	Sign-ups and registration data, 2020-2025, n=2199	88	International Chapters Impact Report 2023-24
57	LSE Generate Schools Programme Impact Report Autumn 2024	89	International Chapters Impact Report 2023-24
58	LSE Generate Schools Programme Impact Report Autumn 2024	90	International Chapters Impact Report 2023-24
59	LSE Generate Schools Programme Impact Report Autumn 2024	91	International Chapters Impact Report 2023-24
60	LSE Generate Schools Programme Impact Report Autumn 2024	92	International Chapters Impact Report 2023-24
61	LSE Generate Schools Programme Impact Report Autumn 2024	93	International Chapters Impact Report 2023-24
62	Business support clinics data, 2023-24	94	International Chapters Impact Report 2023-24
63	Business Clinics data, 2023-24, n=269	95	Data compiled by International Chapters
64	Mentoring and Support Sessions Survey feedback, 2023-24	96	Data compiled by International Chapters
65	Mentoring and Support Sessions Survey feedback, 2023-24, n=149	97	Data compiled by International Chapters
66	Mentoring and Support Sessions Survey feedback, n=105	98	Eventbrite registrations data, 2023-24
67	Mentoring and Support Sessions survey feedback, 2023-24	99	Women founders events data, 2023-24
68	Business Clinics data, 2023-24, n=269	100	Registrations and sign-ups data, 2023-24, n=2061
69	Mentoring and Support Sessions survey feedback, 2023-24	101	Sign-ups and registrations data, 2021-24, n=2114
70	Mentoring and Support Sessions survey feedback, 2023-24	102	LSE Generate sign-ups and registration data
71	Mentoring and Support Sessions survey feedback, 2023-24	103	Sign-ups and registrations data, 2021-24, n=2128
72	Mentoring and Support Sessions Survey feedback, n=105	104	Sign-ups and registrations data, 2021-24, n=2114
73	Business Support Clinics data, 2023-24	105	Sign-ups and registrations data, 2021-24, n=2117
74	Mentoring and Support Sessions survey feedback, 2023-24, n=40	106	Sign-ups and registrations data, 2021-24, n=2061
75	Business Support Clinics data, 2023-24	107	Sign-ups and registrations data, 2021-24
76	Back-end data to start-up platform	108	LSE Generate sign-ups and registration data
77	LSE Generate data, 2023-24	109	LSE Generate sign-ups and registration data,
78	LSE Generate data, 2023-24	110	International Chapters Impact Report 2023-24
79	LSE Generate data, 2023-24	111	SWEEP UK Visit survey feedback, 2024
80	Back-end data to start-up platform	112	SWEEP UK Visit survey feedback, 2024, n=13
81	Sign-ups and registrations data, 2023-24, n=2198	113	SWEEP UK Visit survey feedback, 2024, n=13
82	Eventbrite registrations data, 2023-24, n=3270	114	Women founders retreat data, 2024, n=7
83	Back-end data to start-up platform		
84	Back-end data to start-up platform, n=142		
85	Sign-ups and registrations data, 2023-24, n=2198		
86	Eventbrite registrations data, 2023-24, n=3270		



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