

Generate has been kicking some pretty impressive goals all year...

...and this semester has been no exception. We know you've all been working super hard on your projects, and some of you have even held your events with great success. For the rest of you, here are some tips to help you out in the last minute rush!

Play to your strengths

You've been working together all year, so by now you should have a pretty good idea of the different personalities and working styles in your group.

PROJECT MGMT 101

Suzy is an OCD, colour-coding freak, but she's super organised, while Matt is the big picture guy who keeps the team excited about the overall vision for the project. So don't give Matt any task that involves using Excel and spare Suzy the job of sharing your story with the local paper.

A to do list... is a project manager's best friend

At this stage of the game, all the big things are out of the way.

The concept for your project is fully developed; venues, catering, performers, speakers and donations are locked in; and promotions are well under way. But now is not the time to abandon the to do list.

What about the little things, like whose USB stick you're going to put the PowerPoint presentation on or sending a reminder message to all your Facebook friends?

Make sure you take the time to sit down with your group and make a list of all the small things still to do, and assign each task to a member of the team. That way you know it will all get done and you won't be left with a how embarrassing situation, like holding a raffle with really exciting and amazingly wrapped prizes...at home under your bed.

Keep calm and carry on

When D day comes and your project is about to kick off remember the golden rule of life: don't freak out!

It's quite likely that not everything will go to plan. The DJ might get caught in traffic on his way back from tea and scones with his Grandma and leave you with no music for the night. Stay calm! There's no point worrying about things you can't control. Just relax and enjoy seeing all your hard work come together.

We also have some pretty nifty tools to help you in your travels...only if you like us :)



Generate



@OaktreeGenerate

Where are they now?

With the end of the year barreling towards us, we're once again forced to ask ourselves the question 'what am I going to do with my life?'

Rather than respond by putting our fingers in our ears and singing "na na na not listening", we thought it might help to have a chat to a couple of people who have been in exactly this position. Gaye and Ester were Generators last year who have survived the trauma of having Generate ripped out from underneath them and have gone on to live happy and fulfilled lives.

August - September
generator projects



Gaye Subramaniam

EA to National Communications Directors

What have you been doing since finishing Generate?

I have been involved with Oaktree's communications team, where I started off as a Public Relations Officer, and am now working as an EA to the National Communications directors.

Why did you originally apply for Generate?

I wanted the new phase of my life, post high school to be a meaningful and enriching one. Oaktree's cause really resonated with me, and I got interested in the Generate program that was advertised during O Week. It seemed absolutely perfect! Next thing I knew, I applied for a spot and got in!

What was the best part of being in Generate?

Definitely has to be being around 40+ other like-minded kids who all have the right frame of mind and attitudes towards creating

positive change. Interacting with them, sharing ideas, and just chilling out together every week was by far the best experience. I've made some really good friends through the program.

How has what you learnt in Generate helped you in your life post Generate?

Skills such as public speaking, advocacy, leadership etc. as well as the exposure we got to issues regarding the cause, have really helped bolster my confidence and my ability to step up to challenges and help create awareness among people both young and old.

What advice would you give to Generators who are coming to the end of the program and considering their next steps?

I would really encourage you to stay on with Oaktree, have fun with it, get to meet more inspirational people, and try to identify where in Oaktree you could best offer yourself up to, and stick with it.

Ester Karuso-Thurn

WA Generate Manager

What have you been doing since finishing Generate?

Since I've finished Generate I've been working with Oaktree as the WA Generate Manager and still plodding along at uni.

Why did you originally apply for Generate?

I was interested in aid and development, but didn't really know where best to volunteer, or even if I had any skills to offer. Generate seemed like an amazing way to get started and meet like-minded people.



What was the best part of being in Generate?

All the amazing people I met. It was wonderful meeting so many passionate people and getting to know them all. I think I learnt just as much from them and our discussions as I learnt from the actual program.

How has what you learnt in Generate helped you in your life post Generate?

It has helped me so much. I was able to take my experiences as a Generator into my role as Generate Manager. I was constantly able to relate to how it felt to be a Generator, meeting all these strange people for the first time at camp, contacting people for sponsorship and running events. I think it's helped in how we've delivered the program and thought about why and when we run certain things.

What advice would you give to Generators who are coming to the end of the program and considering their next steps?

Don't stress just do it! As you're finishing Generate, you may not realise it, but you are really the most qualified people to start taking on new positions within Oaktree and especially Generate.

Don't forget the passion that made you commit seven months of your time to Generate in the first place. Even though Generate is coming to an end, extreme poverty is still very real and needs passionate people committed to working to alleviate the suffering of others, through whatever organisation or means that is right for you.

*October
graduation
= party time*



Our Generation's Challenge (OGC)

Every year, a group of Oaktree volunteers has the opportunity to visit our partner organisations and projects. Our Generation's Challenge is a great opportunity to witness first hand the difference our work is making to some of the world's poorest communities. This year OGC travelled to East Timor, and we caught up with two of the lucky ducks who got to go.

Neela Haryani

National Communications Director

Why did you apply for OGC?

I spend a lot of time thinking about Oaktree as a 'brand', and of our overseas projects at 'products'. OGC was great chance to tap into the people, communities and opportunities that these projects really are. In essence, I applied for OGC to shift my thinking, and re-energise myself around issues of development. I was also just really curious about Timor!

What's your OGC highlight?

We spent quite a bit of time in a remote district called Lospalos. It's hard to describe or even try to remember everything about this place. It was visually beautiful, and the community was dynamic. We hung out with young locals, as they planned and ran the area's first ever conference: Participation is Power. We sang together, and taught each other our languages. We danced with elderly women who made beautiful, hand woven materials, to promote and sustain their culture. And we hiked with an ex-resistance fighter, who told us of his dreams for the nation.

What was the hardest part of the trip?

There were a few challenging moments...I'm going to be vain and say going a week without a shower!

How has your experienced on OGC helped you in role at Oaktree?

Having seen some of our projects first hand, I'm excited to create public communications that showcase the richness of what we have going on in country. There are great stories in East Timor. I want to share these honestly and accurately - and place them at the centre of our organisational narrative. I think it's important for all Oaktree volunteers to feel some connection with overseas development, and remain cause-centric - even if your work isn't directly about it. OGC allowed this to happen for me. I feel really energised, and eager to learn and do more.

Dan Lewis-Toakley

Co-Director of Live Below the Line

Why did you apply for OGC?

I applied for OGC because it was a fantastic opportunity, on a number of levels. It is often the case at Oaktree that we work very hard on certain tasks and projects, yet this can seem intangible and sometimes distant to our partner organisations overseas - OGC provides a platform for participants to experience these projects first hand. Secondly, I wanted to broadly learn more about development and the culture of East Timor, which I definitely feel I have!

What's your OGC highlight?

When we were in Dili, we met with an organisation called Lao Hamutuk, meaning "walking together" in the local tongue, Tetun. Lao Hamutuk is an organisation that work to ensure accountability in East Timor, by acting as a buffer between international/local aid organisations and the government. I was very impressed with level of professionalism and respect that the government and other groups have for them. For me, this was an extremely engaging and worthwhile meeting, as we talked about many and varied topics about Timor's political climate, financial instability and cultural problems. It was within the first week of the trip - the perfect meeting to frame our understanding of the country.

What was the hardest part of the trip?

The coffee withdrawals in the first week! Although coffee is one of East Timor's biggest exports and it was widely available, I decided to go without for a month. It killed me!

How has your experienced on OGC helped you in role at Oaktree?

Firstly, an increased level of knowledge in regards to the complexities of development has not only helped me to better understand where my role fits into the bigger picture, but has also helped me day to day in conversations, meetings and working with other people. Also, I gained a better understanding of how I work within a team and how I can best lead others, which has really helped me at Oaktree. Overall, it has allowed me to take my work to the next level, and at the same time refreshed and invigorated me to work harder than even in pulling off an epic 2012 LBL Campaign!

