

# SHALAKA LAXMAN

## DIRECTOR | SUSTAINABLE FINANCE & TRANSITION FINANCE

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[Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

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### SUMMARY

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- Sustainable Finance Director with expertise in developing and scaling solutions that help clients navigate the transition to a low-carbon economy.
- Proven track record in leading the development of market-facing sustainable finance products, advising senior stakeholders on emerging sustainability themes, and driving internal and external thought leadership.
- Experienced moderator and public speaker with a passion for mobilising capital toward emerging markets and real-economy transition opportunities.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Director, Sustainable Finance, Standard Chartered, London** **April 2026 - Present**

**Assistant Director, Sustainable Finance, Standard Chartered, London** **May 2023 - March 2026**

- Lead the development and updates of the bank's Transition Finance Framework, helping shape the bank's approach to financing credible transition activities across markets.
- Spearhead the development of innovative sustainable finance solutions, including sustainable escrow accounts, ESG-linked accounts and sustainable trade loans.
- Partner across product, risk, legal, and coverage teams to embed sustainability considerations into broader banking solutions and client offerings.
- Advise senior stakeholders and clients on transition finance, sustainable finance market developments, and emerging commercial opportunities.
- Support internal governance and transaction labelling discussions relating to sustainable and transition finance activity.
- Represent the bank externally through workshops, speaking engagements, and thought leadership initiatives.

**Founder, By Shax, London** **September 2021 - Present**

- Founded and scaled an independent design and homeware brand focused on sustainable, handcrafted products.
- Lead brand strategy, partnerships, product development, marketing, workshops, and customer engagement.
- Featured through retail and design platforms including John Lewis, Wolf & Badger, Courier Magazine, and Atelier100.

**Freelance Sustainability Consultant and Writer, London / Global** **July 2022 - April 2023**

- Took a year-long sabbatical to travel, expand By Shax, freelance across sustainability-focused projects, and intentionally explore a portfolio career beyond traditional finance.
- Advised Anvai, a San Francisco-based AI start-up, on ESG product strategy and sustainability positioning.
- Served as a Course Assessor for the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership Sustainable Finance programme, evaluating 100+ submissions quarterly.
- Published a weekly sustainability and innovation newsletter covering global ESG trends, climate finance, and emerging technologies.
- Wrote feature articles and sustainability-focused content for online publications and platforms.

## Vice-President, ESG Corporate Banking, Deutsche Bank, London

June 2019 - June 2022

- Developed sustainable finance solutions for large corporate clients within cash management and transaction banking.
- Launched green and sustainability-linked banking products including [green deposits](#) and [sustainability-linked overdrafts](#).
- Presented ESG strategy, market developments, and regulatory updates at client events, leadership forums, and internal town halls.
- Collaborated across product, sales, and implementation teams to integrate ESG considerations into treasury and liquidity solutions.

## Senior Associate, Liquidity Management, JP Morgan Chase, London

March 2017 - May 2019

## Analyst, Corporate Banking, JP Morgan Chase, London & New York

August 2014 - March 2017

- Structured and priced liquidity and treasury solutions for multinational corporate clients, with a focus on notional pooling structures.
- Collaborated across teams on product development initiatives within corporate banking and liquidity management.
- Finalist in firm-wide "Originate: Digital Ideas" competition (original pool of 469 ideas) for a proposal focused on treasury digitisation solutions.
- Led product and process enhancement initiatives, contributing to significant operational efficiency improvements.

## LEADERSHIP, SPEAKING AND EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS

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- Co-Chair of the UK Gender Network at Standard Chartered, leading events, workshops, and discussions supporting the bank's diversity and inclusion agenda.
- Experienced moderator and interviewer across sustainability, leadership, motorsport, and culture-focused events.
- Moderated discussions featuring senior executives including Bill Winters (CEO of Standard Chartered), Farrah Storr (tech leader and former editor of ELLE and Cosmopolitan), Autumn Fisher (F1 Academy Wildcard driver).
- Represented Standard Chartered as a delegate at One Young World Summit 2025, a global leadership forum focused on social and environmental impact.

## EDUCATION

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Sustainable Finance Certificate, Cambridge Institute of Sustainability Leadership	2021
Bachelor of Science in Commerce, University of Virginia	2014
Certificate in Game Theory and Strategy, London School of Economics	2012

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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- Mentor, [We in Social Tech](#) Growth Accelerator Programme
- Former leadership committee member, [Deutsche Bank Gender Equality Network](#)
- Former Co-optee, [Southwark Council](#) Community Engagement & Environment Scrutiny Committee
- Co-founded [Strawberries & Cream](#), a non-profit supporting local charities via fundraising events
- Features/Press: [Bright Blu Dot interview](#), [Humans in Finance interview](#)

## SKILLS AND INTERESTS

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- **Languages:** English (native), Hindi (fluent), Hungarian (beginner).
- **Areas of Expertise:** Sustainable Finance, Transition Finance, Product Development, ESG Strategy, Stakeholder Engagement, Public Speaking
- **Interests:** Reading, travel, design, music, animal welfare