

Shalaka Laxman

Sustainable Finance Officer, Designer, Writer

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BACKGROUND

After spending eight years in different areas within Corporate Banking, I embarked on a creative 6 month sabbatical in June 2022 to freelance and pursue diverse business interests while travelling in a slower and more deliberate way. My goal is to explore creative and unconventional ways of doing things to make our planet a better place. I'm now looking for a role that aligns with this mission and aims to develop responsible and sustainable business practices.

EXPERIENCE

Sustainability Officer, Founder, Artist, Writer | March 2022 - Present

Freelance Sustainability Officer & Project Manager

- Course assessor on the [Sustainable Finance short course](#) offered by the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL): Evaluate 100+ essays every quarter.
- Consulting part-time for [Anvai](#), a San Francisco-based AI start-up, on ESG topics, product development, market positioning, and pitching.

Founder of Art & Homeware Brand: By Shax

- Founded [By Shax](#), an independent, conscious [brand](#) which uses a variety of materials to create handmade, sustainable, and vibrant pieces for unique homes.
- Manage the business end-to-end, from strategy and design to press releases and content. Seen in John Lewis, Season of Wonder, and Wolf & Badger in Q4 2022.

Freelance Writer

- Created a weekly [newsletter](#) covering the week's sustainability and innovation news stories, with a focus on responsible businesses (especially start-ups) globally. Published 200+ issues with a thousand subscribers to date.
- Writing a wide variety of [content](#) (feature articles, blogs) for online publications.

Deutsche Bank, London | June 2019 - June 2022

Vice-President, ESG Product Manager

- Responsible for development of sustainable financial products aimed at large corporate clients, with a focus on global cash management.
- Launched range of green financial products for companies, including [green deposits](#) and [sustainability-linked overdrafts](#).
- Presented enhanced ESG strategy and relevant industry news (e.g. COP headlines or regulatory updates) at client events & firm-wide town halls,.

J.P. Morgan Chase, London & New York | August 2014 - May 2019

Senior Associate, Liquidity Product Manager

- Finalist in firm-wide "Originate: Digital Ideas" competition (original pool of 469 ideas) with a proposal on digitizing solutions for corporate treasuries.
- Developed and priced complex product solutions for large corporates, with a specific focus on Notional Pooling structures for clients.

Analyst, Corporate Banking Rotational Programme

- Collaborated with multiple teams on financial planning, design, platform discovery, and all aspects of the product development cycle.
- Overhauled legacy processes and repositioned overdraft products, resulting in 76% drop in lack of repayment of third-party overdrafts.

EDUCATION

Cambridge Institute of Sustainability Leadership | 2021

Sustainable Finance Certification

University of Virginia | 2014

B.S. in Commerce; Minor: Leadership

London School of Economics | 2012

Certificate: Game Theory, Strategy

ACTIVITIES

dbGO Leadership Group | 2019 - 2022

Served on the leadership committee for Deutsche Bank's gender equality employee resource group.

We in Social Tech Mentor | 2019 - 2022

Mentored four women-led social tech businesses as part of the We in Social Tech growth accelerator programme.

Strawberries & Cream | 2018 - 2020

Co-founded a non-profit to raise funds for local charities by hosting events. Donated ~£5,000 to five charities.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

- **Languages:** English (native), Hindi, currently learning Hungarian.
- **Interests:** Reading, traveling, singing, painting, film-making, animal welfare.
- **Technical skills:** Mailchimp, iMovie, Ads Manager, SEO optimization.

FEATURES & PRESS

- **Bright Blu Dot:** Interview [2022]
- **Deutsche Bank:** D&I Recognition [2021]
- **Humans In Finance:** Interview [2020]