

Shalaka Laxman

Sustainable Finance Professional

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BACKGROUND

I am passionate about finding innovative ways to drive capital to emerging markets, where it can create the greatest impact. I work in Sustainable Finance, focusing on new product development across the organization, and drive our thought leadership on emerging themes like Transition Finance.

EXPERIENCE

[Standard Chartered Bank, London](#) | [May 2023 - Present](#)

Assistant Director, Sustainable Finance Solutions

- Spearheaded the development and launch of multiple Sustainable Finance products, including ESG-linked accounts, sustainable repos, and sustainable trade loans for financial institutions.
- Lead the bank's Transition Finance labelling process, serving as the go-to expert for validating and presenting transactions.
- Act as a subject matter expert on Sustainable Finance, advising senior stakeholders and clients; deliver workshops and training sessions to upskill teams across the bank.
- Champion the integration of Sustainable Finance solutions into the bank's broader product suite, ensuring alignment with industry best practices and regulatory standards.

[By Shax](#) | [September 2021 - Present](#)

Founder, Art & Homeware Small Business (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, Courier Magazine, Atelier100 (Ikea and H&M partnership), Season of Wonder, and Wolf & Badger.
- Run crafting workshops teaching attendees how to work with jesmonite, a water-based eco-resin, to create unique pieces of homeware.

[Sustainability Consultant, Founder, Writer](#) | [July 2022 - April 2023](#)

Took a year-long sabbatical to travel, freelance, expand By Shax, and explore a portfolio career, gaining diverse experiences beyond traditional finance.

Freelance Sustainability Consultant & Project Manager

- Course assessor on the [Sustainable Finance short course](#) offered by the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL): Evaluated 100+ essays every quarter.
- Consulted part-time for [Anvaj](#), a San Francisco-based AI start-up, on ESG topics, product development, market positioning, and pitching.
- Provided advice on climate finance initiatives as a co-optee for the Community Engagement and Environment Scrutiny Committee of [Southwark Council](#).

Freelance Writer

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

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

[UKGEN Employee Group](#) | [2024 - Present](#)

Co-chair of gender employee resource group at Standard Chartered, leading events and workshops to drive the bank's D&I agenda.

[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]

EXPERIENCE

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 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.