



INTERNATIONAL TRADE & FORFAITING ASSOCIATION

EMERGING LEADERS INITIATIVE





ITFA EMERGING LEADERS

Welcome to the ITFA Emerging Leaders Initiative!

I am thrilled to introduce you to our global community. Our initiative promotes the interests of early-stage and aspiring professionals in trade finance, ensuring the industry's sustainability and long-term growth.

Through various initiatives – including our Mentoring Programme, Annual Competition, and a series of global events and projects – we provide valuable opportunities to learn, network, and grow within the trade finance community.

Whether you are aiming to enter the industry, just starting out, or looking to take the next step in your career, we're here to support you.

I encourage you to get involved, participate in our initiatives, and take full advantage of this vibrant global community.

Sincerely,

Pouya Jafari

Chair, ITFA Emerging Leaders





MENTORING

The ITFA Martin Ashurst Mentoring Programme has been a transformative experience for hundreds of professionals. The initiative provides one-on-one mentorship opportunities, networking events, and access to trade finance resources. The programme is open to:

- **Mentees:** Students, professionals from other industries, or those already working in trade finance looking for guidance.
- **Mentors:** Experienced trade finance professionals willing to share their knowledge and support the next generation.

Selected candidates will be paired with a mentor or mentee, committing to a minimum of three one-hour sessions to explore strength and weaknesses, growth opportunities, and future career paths.

Alongside the one-to-one mentoring sessions, the Mentoring Programme consists of virtual training sessions and networking opportunities aimed at early talent in the industry.

To express your interest in participating, please visit itfa.org or contact us at mentoring@itfa.org





ANNUAL COMPETITION

Our Annual Emerging Leader Competition is an exciting opportunity to showcase innovative ideas that can shape the future of trade finance. The competition:

- Encourages participants to **present original solutions to industry challenges**.
- Provides a platform for **shortlisted candidates to present at the ITFA Annual Conference, with travel and accommodation costs covered** by ITFA and our sponsors.
- Offers winners the chance to **gain industry recognition**, with past winners experiencing promotions and career growth.

Each year, the competition grows in impact, and we invite all Emerging Leaders to participate and share their ideas with the global trade finance community.

To learn more about the competition and how to participate, visit itfa.org or contact us at competition@itfa.org





EVENTS

One of the key aspects of ITFA Emerging Leaders is our global events series, which offers aspiring and early-stage trade finance professionals the opportunity to connect, learn, and grow. Our events are designed to foster meaningful relationships, provide insights into industry trends, and create a sense of community among our global membership.

We regularly host events of several types:

- **Educational panel discussions on key industry trends**
- **Workshops and training sessions**
- **Networking meetups**

We host events in major financial hubs, including **London, New York, Dubai, Mumbai, Frankfurt, Chicago, Sydney**, and beyond. Our events have included major industry figures, leading policymakers, politicians, and academics, and professional career coaches.

To keep track of upcoming events, make sure to join our mailing list by contacting us at elc@itfa.org





MEET THE ITFA EMERGING LEADERS COMMITTEE

The ITFA Emerging Leaders Committee oversees and manages the Emerging Leaders Initiative's global activities. The Committee consists of elected representatives, chosen by ITFA's global membership. Elections are announced by the ITFA Secretariat to members.

The current Committee was elected in 2024 and consists of the following people:

- **Pouya Jafari, Chair**
- **Charlie O'Mulloy, Deputy Chair**
- **Adriana Cano Buchholz**
- **Caitlin MacNamara**
- **Charlotte Russo**
- **Clara del Val**
- **Harsha Mehta**
- **Katie Gates**
- **Pia Reyes**
- **Ruby Zhou**
- **Sam Fowler-Holmes**
- **Vikrant Yadav**

The Emerging Leaders Initiative was created by **Duarte Pedreira**, ITFA Board Member and Head of Institutional Relations and Head of Emerging Leaders, who remains responsible for the Committee on behalf of the Board.

The Committee is further supported by **Sarah Mikhail** in Dubai, **Neha Saxena** in Mumbai, and **Samantha Ruben** in Chicago.

SPONSORSHIP

Sponsoring the Emerging Leaders is a unique opportunity to demonstrate your organisation's commitment to supporting the next generation of leaders in the industry. Please contact us at elc@itfa.org to discuss sponsorship opportunities.

STARTING A LOCAL CHAPTER

We are committed to building strong local communities all over the world. If you are interested in setting up a local Emerging Leaders chapter in your city or region, please reach out to us at elc@itfa.org