

## PhD Studentships 2025/26

Centre name:

**El Shaarani Centre for Ethical Finance, Accountability and Governance (EFAG)**

<https://www.durham.ac.uk/business/research/centres/ethical-finance/>

Title of proposed research topics:

- Influence of SDG-related regulations on corporate/managerial behaviour and activities
- The role of Non-Executive Directors in governance of UK financial services sector
- The politics of sustainability reporting standard setting and/or the influence of standards on action towards sustainable development
- The role of investors in change towards sustainable development
- Utilising AI and machine learning techniques to understand the role played by CSR in determining firms' accounting choices and economic outcomes
- ESG data provided by ESG rating agencies
- Governance and accountability within financial services
- Pension fund/ ESG/ Proxy voting service providers governance practices
- Diversity and Inclusion within financial services
- Data analytics within financial services sector.
- Corporate governance
- Board compensation
- Local or corporate culture
- Sustainability/ESG performance

Potential supervisors:

- [Professor Omneya Abdelsalam](#)
- [Professor Anna Tilba](#)
- [Dr Mabel Costa](#)
- [Dr Bilal Bilal](#)
- [Professor Habib Ahmed](#)
- [Dr Ahmed Elsayed](#)
- [Dr Guanming He](#)

- [Dr Franklin Nakpodia](#)
- [Professor Richard Slack](#)

Description of possible research topic with some key references:

Please refer to publications of potential supervisors.