



Meet the finalists



Klara Bakija

Belgium

Klara is a consultant in Transfer Pricing at EY in Brussels. She is originally from Pula, Croatia, where she majored in languages and literature. She learned French and fell in love with Brussels while traveling in Europe, prompting her to apply to ULB and study economic science. An inspiring professor of tax policy in the EU motivated Klara to pursue a career in transfer pricing. Since starting at EY, she has been learning a lot thanks to her colleagues and many different projects. Klara's passions are cooking and horseback riding.



Nicolas Sergerie

Canada

After completing a master's degree in Tax and a double major in Finance and Accounting, Nicolas joined the EY Tax group in Montreal, mainly working on financial institutions engagements. Prior to joining EY, Nicolas worked at a pension fund in operations management and performed commercial lending at a US bank, which has helped him understand his clients' business. Passionate about learning, Nicolas tries to learn something new in his free time. One day, he wishes to replicate his experience of studying abroad in Switzerland and live in another country for some time, to fully integrate the culture.



**Juliana Carolina
Chaparro**

Colombia

Juliana works with the Global Trade group in Bogota, supporting the team in global trade consulting, Free Trade Zone audits and consulting on Colombian instruments of export promotion. Juliana has a bachelor's degree in International Business Administration and has gained experience supporting international relations by leveraging global knowledge and resources. She currently is developing a new service in her practice, advising local companies on how they could expand their market abroad and working with companies located abroad that would like to enter the Colombian market.

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**Frantz Alexander
Bruhns**

Denmark

Frantz is in the final year of his master's degree in Law at Aarhus University in Denmark. His focus is on commercial law, especially tax law and company law. Frantz is particularly interested in how the EU Anti-Tax Avoidance Directives will affect the EU as a whole in light of the EU harmonization. His ambition is to work with and learn from the best in the field of tax law.

Before starting to study law, Frantz worked in retail in Copenhagen, primarily selling fine menswear. He has a great passion for surfing, so whenever he has the opportunity, he travels around the world to see it from the perspective of the waves.



Tim Haglund

Finland

Tim joined the EY Global Compliance & Reporting team in Finland in January 2020. Based in Helsinki, Tim has taken his first steps to become a trusted advisor within taxation. As a trainee, he has been preparing annual and quarterly reporting for multinational and local companies. Tim is responsible for preparing income tax returns, statutory reports and other compliance-related reports, as well as bookkeeping and monthly reporting for some clients. A recent graduate of Åbo Akademi University, he majored in Economics and minored in Accounting and Information Systems, Tim also spent a semester abroad at California State University, Long Beach in California. Outside of work, Tim enjoys sporting activities with his friends, as well as spending time with family and loved ones.



Ines Soumhi

France

Ines is an attorney licensed in the State of New York and in Paris. She recently joined the Ernst & Young Société d'Avocats in France as a junior associate in the Transaction Tax group, which helps businesses and funds navigate the tax implications arising from their transactions – acquisitions, disposals, refinancing and restructuring. Ines gained first-hand exposure to business tax law over the course of two internships, and during her academic studies she delved into the interplay of the US and French tax systems. These experiences strengthened her interest in tax law, and she is now eager to deepen her knowledge of transaction tax, with a special focus on cross-border operations. Ines enjoys reading, playing piano, and listening to a wide variety of podcasts and music, with a slight obsession for the disco era.

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Nishtha Laddha

GDS – Global

Nishtha is currently pursuing an ACCA qualification and is in her penultimate year at Delhi University earning a Bachelor of Commerce Honors. She is the HR Head of the Enactus society in her college. Nishtha believes herself to be a product of hard work and kindness, reading hard work in her father's eyes and kindness in her mother's. Throughout her schooling, Nishtha actively participated in inter- and intra-school arts and technical competitions, often serving as a leader. Nishtha strives to live her dreams by grabbing opportunities along the way and will now be able to fulfill one of her life's wishes to join the Big Four and contribute to the organization's success and growth. She is passionate about arts, dance, movies and books, with a collection ranging from romance to mystery.



**Nadine
Teichelmann**

Germany

Nadine is a consultant for EY Indirect Tax Technology and Transformation based in Munich, Germany. Her work focuses on VAT automation and implementation projects, VAT data analytics and VAT risk assessments, and she is the primary contact for two multinational clients. Her tasks range from the creation of deliverables and project management to independent execution of workshops. Nadine has a bachelor's degree in IT Management within a dual-study program that alternated three-month blocks of studying at university and internships. During this program, she spent time abroad studying in Ireland and interning in the Netherlands. Nadine started working part-time at EY while studying for her master's degree and joined full-time in August 2020, pursuing her aspiration to become a leading worldwide professional for tax technology. Outside work, she likes to exercise outdoors, particularly hiking and horseback riding.



Sachiko Surjono

Greater China

Sachiko was born and raised in Indonesia but currently resides in Hong Kong, where she is in her final year of studies pursuing a bachelor's degree in Accounting with a minor in Finance at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her interest in tax drove her to join EY in Hong Kong as an intern in the Tax department. This experience provided her with a new perspective to what a career in tax entails, realizing that it goes beyond just crunching numbers and filing tax returns. Instead, tax is an everchanging field that continuously transforms as it transcends borders and keeps up with innovation. Sachiko continues to seek new learning opportunities to progress and better herself. In her free time, she has been trying out new recipes and learning to Muay Thai.

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Harish Kumar V

India

Harish is a Chartered Accountant and member of the EY Transaction Tax practice in Chennai, India. Since joining EY, he has worked on crucial assignments that have helped sharpen his skills and grow confidence in his abilities. Over the years, Harish's work has largely focused on conceptualizing transaction structures and succession planning. His long-term goal is to satisfy his passion for hands-on entrepreneurship while continuing to work at EY.



Vinitha Martheo

Indonesia

Vinitha is a junior consultant in the Transfer Pricing group at Ernst and Young in Indonesia. She assists on a variety of projects, including transfer pricing documentation, review, planning and controversy projects. Vinitha has a degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from The University of Manchester, where she worked part-time as a student researcher, sat on the editorial board of the university's politics journal, and served on the committee of a cultural student society. Outside of the office, her hobbies include reading, traveling and learning about different languages and cultures. Vinitha is passionate about having an international career where she can use her skill set to create solutions and help others.



Silvia Matranga

Italy

Silvia is pursuing her Masters at the University of Pavia studying Economics and Law. She is currently in the Erasmus exchange program at the University of Southern Denmark. A summa cum laude graduate of the University of Turin, Silvia performed a traineeship in Brussels at the Secretary-General of the European Parliament, Directorate for Finance, in the Members' Salaries and Social Entitlements Unit. Silvia describes herself as an extremely curious person who grew up listening to her parents discuss their small business and the different professionals they worked with. This drove her interest in business regulations and international taxation.

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Ayana Mori

Japan

Ayana received her Business degree in March and jumped into the world of tax in April. She currently works at EY Japan, performing tax compliance work for both domestic and international real estate clients. Ayana does not have a background in accounting or tax, so she strives daily to learn more about tax and industry to provide a quality service. Her goal is to work outside Japan, giving tax advice to a diverse range of clients. Ayana is passionate about learning different languages, motivated by the desire to converse with locals in their own language and work with clients in other countries. She is fluent in English and Spanish and may study Korean next, inspired by her favorite K-pop music and Korean dramas.



Jackline Bor

Kenya

Jackline is an associate in the Tax group at Ernst and Young LLP in Kenya, where she advises clients on tax compliance, performs tax health check reviews, files tax returns and conducts analysis of tax implications on transactions. She also works to meet client expectations through timely delivery of assignments. Jackline finds that learning about tax matters has been stimulating and enjoyable because the tax environment is always evolving. She says EY has offered her a chance to grow while also encouraging her to learn international leading practices. Jackline enjoys various social activities such as discovering her beautiful country with family and friends. She also is passionate about empowering women.



Ashley Lim

Malaysia

Ashley is a final-year undergraduate majoring in Professional Accountancy at the Tunku Abdul Rahman University College. She also is pursuing an ACCA qualification and attempting the Strategic Professional papers. Ashley recently interned for one of the Big Four in Malaysia and credits that experience for helping her consider a career in tax. Ashley is passionate about personal development and making an impact, so she is always keen to take up new challenges and support social initiatives. Instead of donating money, Ashley believes in donating time to make a difference – whether it be a kind word, a good conversation or creating social impact.

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**Arantxa
Plascencia Ortiz**

Mexico

Arantxa works in the Tax Controversy and Litigation team at EY in Mexico City, helping clients build a strong defense file and checking their procedures. Before joining EY, she was a law clerk at the Federal Tax Court, which helped her understand the weak points in a taxpayer's evidence and arguments when the tax authority issued a resolution against them. Arantxa's goal is to change how people think about taxes. She believes taxes should be a way for businesses to contribute to the country that has helped them grow, while always paying the fair amount.



Folake Oyelade

Nigeria

Folake is an associate with the International Tax and Transaction Services team at Ernst & Young with experience working on tax advisory projects, tax due diligence, restructuring and transfer pricing advisory. The Nigerian-born economist and tax consultant, who graduated with a degree in Economics from Landmark University, is enthusiastic about being part of a team that formulates effective macroeconomic policies that would affect taxation, investment and entrepreneurship. She previously interned in a consultancy firm, where she worked as an assistant economist and carried out various activities ranging from economic research, feasibility studies and data analysis. Folake is passionate about women empowerment in Africa, entrepreneurship and economic development, and is determined to start a foundation that empowers women across Africa in the next five years. Folake enjoys listening to soul music, reading and traveling, and her favorite book is *The Lightning Thief*.



**Anders
Rønningen**

Norway

Anders is currently writing his master thesis as a research assistant at the Scandinavian Institute of Maritime Law at the University of Oslo. He is investigating the relationship between marine collision avoidance rules and liability for collision damages, and whether and how the collision avoidance rules apply to unmanned autonomous vessels. During law school, Anders was an intern at a Norwegian law firm (Wikborg Rein), the Norwegian Ministry of Finance (Tax Law Department) and the Ministry of Justice and Public Security (Legislation Department). He also was the co-editor for the Norwegian University Law Review. Before attending law school, he was a conscript in His Majesty the King's Guard military band. After finishing his master thesis, Anders plans to apply for a student exchange program abroad. He enjoys spending time with friends and family.

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Joshua Mok

Oceania

Joshua is pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce and Laws degree (major in Finance) at the University of Sydney. Alongside his studies, he is working remotely as a paralegal for a Chinese law firm in its antitrust practice group. He primarily assists the principal lawyer on cross-border transactions involving international clients and their application process for regulatory approval. Joshua previously worked for an Australian law firm that focused on personal injury matters. He signed up for the EY Young Tax Professional of the Year competition because of his interest in international tax and desire to gain exposure on this area of law. Joshua is passionate about art and loves going to exhibitions. He can easily spend an afternoon at White Rabbit, a gallery in Sydney that has a significant Chinese contemporary art collection. His dream is to one day open an art gallery and share his favorite artworks with people.



**Leanne Aila
T Monserate**

Philippines

Leanne is a tax associate at SGV & Co. based in Makati, the Philippines. During her year at the firm, Leanne has been exposed to various engagements such as tax health checks, assistance in tax audits, VAT refund applications, preparation of tax returns, and income tax accrual reviews. These diverse opportunities have allowed her to challenge herself, learn continuously with every new engagement and eventually impart these learnings to future leaders to create the ripples in building a better working world. As a passionately curious individual, Leanne always looks forward to encountering new things and understanding new perspectives to inspire positive change and to pay it forward. Leanne is a Certified Public Accountant who graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy from the University of the Philippines Visayas.



Igor Platonov

Russia

Igor joined the Tax and Law department at EY in Russia after earning his bachelor's degree at Moscow State University. Given his educational history, it was only natural for him to pursue a career in finance, economics or tax. His interest in media and technology, along with prior experience in programming, led him to the Technology, Media & Entertainment, and Telecommunications group. Igor believes that hard work and an ability to think on his feet helps him do his work well every day. In his spare time, he continues to pursue his goal of becoming a part-time writer, but his first book is far from being finished.

Meet the finalists



**Khadijah Abdulqader
Mohammed-
AlMostafa Al-Shefaly**

Saudi Arabia

Khadijah has a bachelor's degree in Accounting from Yanbu University College and is interested in tax laws and regulations and financial technology. Right before graduating, she gained almost three months of experience through internships in the oil and gas industry and medical governmental field, in addition to volunteering in community service. She also worked as an administrative assistant at a local salon to gain experience and give back to her community. Her passion is to have a long-lasting legacy and make a mark everywhere she goes by helping to establish a persistent asset or advantage that could help the world.



Zhen Cheng Neo

Singapore

Zhen Cheng is a first-year associate working in Global Compliance & Reporting - Corporate Tax Services at Ernst & Young Solutions LLP in Singapore. He assists the team in corporate tax matters, helping to provide tax services that meet client needs. A recent graduate of the National University of Singapore, he is acquiring tax knowledge from peers and seniors, an experience that has been challenging yet rewarding. He aspires to continue providing value to his clients and team, and in the near future, guide others as his team has guided him.



Rodney Benganga

South Africa

Rodney has a degree in Accounting from the University of Johannesburg and is currently pursuing a BCom Honours degree in Accounting specializing in Taxation. While completing his undergraduate degree, Rodney worked part-time in events and hospitality. He most recently worked in a full-time sales position. In addition to his passion for tax, Rodney enjoys reading and writing screenplays for many genres, as well as African contemporary dance. Rodney's career aspiration is to become a seasoned international tax specialist serving clients from various countries and industries.

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**Jose Manuel
Sagrista De Ory**

Spain

Jose was born in Cadiz, a coastal city in southern Spain. Since childhood, he has loved music and sports, playing the guitar in his free time, and trying to keep fit every day. While studying Law and Business Administration at the University of Seville, he discovered a passion for tax and decided to pursue a master's degree in Tax Advisory in Madrid. He previously worked in the tax area of several law firms in Seville and Madrid and is now at Ernst & Young Abogados, SLP in Madrid, working in different departments and acquiring a complete and transversal knowledge in national and international taxation.



Sara Bengtsson

Sweden

Sara is currently studying her fifth and final year in Linköping, where she is pursuing a Master's degree in Commercial and Business Law. Her most interesting courses have been tax law, financial planning, and legal and financial business analysis. Sara has been working at the Swedish Tax Agency since April and previously worked in customer service at a bank. Both jobs allowed her to use her education, a fact she finds inspiring. Sara enjoys spending time with friends and family, trying new activities, visiting new places and almost all types of exercise. She is excited to move to Stockholm in a few months.



David Basler

Switzerland

David works, lives and studies in Basel. While finishing his master's in Economics, he also works for the EY Business Tax Services team on a permanent basis. David usually performs tax audits on listed and non-listed companies, and also engages on compliance activities and contributes to multinational tax advisory projects. David previously worked in EY Assurance Services, where he honed his knowledge in accounting and developed advanced analytical thinking. David regularly practices classic boxing and meditates to feel calm and open his mind to new and changing conditions.

Meet the finalists



**Pitchakorn
Chawaranggoon**

Thailand

Pitchakorn is a junior consultant in the International Tax and Transaction Tax Services group at EY Corporate Services Limited in Thailand. She completed her bachelor's degree in Law in Thailand and earned a Master of Laws (LLM) from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law in the US with a specialization in financial regulations and capital markets. Pitchakorn has interned for large law firms where she was involved in corporate, capital market and general commercial practice groups. She loves exploring new areas of interest and learning new things, so she aspires to have a career where she can use her creative side and make a lasting impact in the world.



Louise Kuzee

The Netherlands

Louise is a junior consultant at Ernst & Young Belastingadviseurs LLP in the International Tax Services group in Amsterdam, where she also worked as a student. She enjoys her increasing responsibilities within a diverse client portfolio. Louise has a degree in Tax Law from Leiden University. During her studies, she completed several internships at different companies and eventually concluded that EY was the perfect match. She hopes to stay with EY and further her development as tax advisor.



Süleyman Yavuz

Turkey

Süleyman works in the Transaction Tax group of Master of Laws (LLM) from the Indiana University Maurer at EY (Kuzey YMM, Bagimsiz Denetim A.S) in Turkey, where he previously interned with the International Tax Services team. He is a graduate of Marmara University, Faculty of Economics. His ambition is to develop himself further with EY, leveraging the opportunity of being exposed to lots of different issues at the same time.

Meet the finalists



Madelaine Bewlay

United Kingdom

Madelaine works with the Real Estate, Construction and Hospitality (RHC) Direct Tax team within International Tax and Transaction Services at Ernst & Young LLP in London, focusing on transactional tax advisory, cross-border tax structuring advice and tax compliance services. She is currently studying for the ICAS/ CTA joint qualification and has completed nine of the exams. While at the University of Bristol studying economics and French, Madelaine participated in the EY summer internship within RHC Indirect Tax. She continued to explore her interest in property, completing an MSc in Real Estate. Madelaine is a keen traveler who studied abroad in Bordeaux and hopes to spend more time either working or traveling overseas.



**Jonathan A.
Monk**

United States

Jonathan is pursuing his Master of Laws in Taxation at Boston University School of Law. He received his Juris Doctorate from FAMU College of Law, part of Florida A&M University, a historically Black college and university. While studying at the FAMU College of Law, Jonathan clerked for, and was mentored by, attorneys Charles E. Gee and Adaryll M. Lee, distinguished recipients of the National Bar Association's Top 40 under 40 Award. Jonathan seeks to further his knowledge of tax law so that he may empower, encourage and advise his clients on how best to navigate US and international tax laws to maximize their business' success.

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