



## Applying for VISTA funding in 2015

VISTA is a collaboration between Statoil and The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. VISTA's overall vision is to stimulate basic research in the natural sciences as it relates to the utilization and management of the nation's petroleum resources. Furthermore VISTA aims to be an arena for strategic discussion between Norwegian basic research communities, industry and society. VISTA aims to stimulate and promote research of high quality, with special emphasis on developing young researchers. VISTA supports PhD and Post Doc projects in addition to a VISTA Professorship.

For more information, visit [www.vista.no](http://www.vista.no)

VISTA calls for applications within the four priority areas: *exploration, improved recovery, future development and operations, and environment*. VISTA also encourages projects that are relevant to several of the priority areas.

### **Deadlines for 2014/2015:**

VISTA has two annual deadlines for applying for VISTA funding (PhD and Post Doc).

**Step 1:** August 15. Qualified candidates from Step 1 are invited to proceed to Step 2.

**Step 2:** October 10.

Funding for a total of 5 projects; aiming to start in the first semester 2015.

**Step 1:** February 1.

**Step 2:** March 20.

Funding for a total of 5 projects; aiming to start in the second semester 2015.

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### ***VISTA calls for applications within the following areas:***

#### **Exploration**

In order to better utilize our resources in the future, the goal of the program *Exploration* is to increase knowledge of shelf structure, and shelf development with a special focus on how these have controlled the behavior and distribution of petroleum resources. It is also particularly important to increase our knowledge of geophysical methods and how these methods can contribute to a better understanding of the petroleum resources' distribution and behavior.

Main focus areas include, but are not limited to:

- Large-scale geological and geophysical modeling
- Geophysical methods of measurement and processing
- Basin analysis

## Improved recovery

The goal of the program *Improved recovery* is to better understand how we best utilize our resources from existing and future fields to avoid situations where significant resources remain unused. The investigations include different scales, from pool to how the surface of mineral-grains vary and determines how oil and gas move into the reservoirs. Improved recovery is linked to the basic understanding of physical, chemical and biological processes associated with the mobility of hydrocarbons.

Main focus areas include, but are not limited to:

- Reservoir characterization
- Processes related to production of hydrocarbons, including biotechnology
- Reservoir-simulation and fluid properties

## Future development and operations

The goal of this program is to develop the *future development and operations*, with strict requirements to robustness, integrity and availability. In the future, petroleum resources will be far from shore, in deeper water, in areas with ice, and in areas with strict environmental standards. There will be a shift toward unmanned over- and underwater operations, which requires increased skills and basic knowledge in physics, chemistry, material science, and chemical engineering. High standards for energy efficiency will be set; both in the development- and production phase.

Main focus areas include, but are not limited to:

- Material technology, including nanotechnology, and risk and reliability analysis
- Flow assurance and subsea processing
- Long-distance power

## Environment

The goal of the program *Environment* is research on how the petroleum business affects life in the ocean and on land. This knowledge forms the basis for how we manage and use the resources in the future without compromising the environment. It is of particular interest to understand the dynamic and long-term effects of exploration and production on the food web. Another important goal/aspect is to understand the local impact of petroleum activity for future utilization of these areas.

Main focus areas include, but are not limited to:

- Environmental monitoring
- Dynamic effects on the food chain
- Baseline studies in areas not yet opened for petroleum production

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## Procedures for VISTA applications:

Applying for VISTA funding is a twofold process:

1. **STEP 1:** The applicant submits a short project description (one A4-page), CV and transcripts for the candidate, and CV for the project director within the deadline to the VISTA administration ([vista@dnva.no](mailto:vista@dnva.no)). Publication list should be no longer than 1 page. The committees for the various focus areas present a prioritized list of applications to the VISTA board of the projects.
2. **STEP 2:** The VISTA board invites prioritized applications from Step 1 to submit a complete application. Step 2 applications are evaluated and ranked by the area committees and presented to the VISTA board. The board makes the final approval of projects and candidates. VISTA follows the Norwegian Research Council rules on impartiality and confidence.

VISTA complies with Norwegian Government pay regulations, which usually starts at LT 50 for PhD (2013) and 57 for Postdoc. Overhead is calculated to 30% of salary costs. VISTA's current yearly lump sum for operations is up to NOK 150 000. VISTA does not usually provide funds for permanent equipment.

VISTA normally requires an average grade of B or better for the candidates. Only applications with an identified candidate will be considered. Final decisions on Step 2 applications cannot be made until transcripts from master and PhD studies have been provided. Accepted VISTA PhD/Postdocs are temporarily employed by The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.

A candidate may have *one* Postdoc period before the VISTA-period, but only *one* VISTA Postdoc period in total.

***The criteria for selection of projects in the prioritized areas are the qualifications and potential of the candidate, the scientific quality of the research group, and the quality of the project.***