



Applying for VISTA funding

VISTA is a basic research program funded by Statoil, conducted in close collaboration with The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. VISTA was established in 1985 to promote the co-operation between Statoil and academia in Norway and to strengthen the capacity and quality of science in areas of particular interest in the oil and gas industry. VISTA supports PhD and Post Doc projects in addition to a VISTA Professorship.

VISTA has two annual deadlines for applying for VISTA funding (Phd and Post Doc).
Deadlines 2013:

Step 1: 1 February. **Step 2:** 20 March (funding for a total of 3 projects aiming to start in the second semester 2013)

Step 1: 15 August. **Step 2:** 20. September (funding for a total of 3 projects aiming to start in the first semester 2014)

VISTA calls for applications within the following areas:

Exploration

Applications are accepted within the following areas:

- Arctic - from plate to reservoir scale
- Plate and crustal processes related to sedimentary basins (e.g., lithospheric processes, analysis of "source-to-sink" depositional systems, geo-system modeling and applications of remote sensing)
- New techniques for improved geophysical imaging of complex geology

Projects in the following areas will also be considered:

- Geophysical techniques, fluid and reservoir prediction (rock physics, electromagnetics)
- Deepwater basins and new exploration concepts
- Studies of carbonates
- Petroleum system analysis
- Unconventional hydrocarbons (shale gas and gas hydrates)

Improved recovery

Applications are accepted within the following areas:

- Recovery methods for conventional oil and gas resources
- Unconventional oil and gas resources like heavy oil (in sandstone or shales), gas in low-permeable reservoirs, and gas hydrates.
- Understanding of residual oil distribution and modeling of advanced methods for enhanced oil recovery, including well solutions
- Reservoir modeling and characterization coupled to dynamic behavior
- Geophysical reservoir monitoring
- Intelligent and safe well construction

Oil and Gas Processing

Applications are accepted within the following areas:

Oil and gas processing is a programme for supporting fundamental research within processing of hydrocarbons along the entire value chain, including separation processes, thermodynamic and physical properties, processing and upgrading of heavy oil and other unconventional hydrocarbon resources, in-situ upgrading, natural gas conversion and thermochemical conversion of biomass to hydrocarbon based fuels.

Environment

Applications are accepted within the following areas:

Environmental technology projects within the VISTA programme contribute to Statoil's business development by providing zero harm solutions and support gaining licenses to operate in new acreages. Statoil's overriding ambition is to provide energy while simultaneously taking care of the environment. To maintain a favorable position in holistic environmental management, Statoil works within environmental risk assessment, environmental monitoring and uses Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in project development.

The Environment area in VISTA is aimed at strengthening basic research within scientific areas central to solving the environmental challenges of petroleum production, onshore and offshore. VISTA Environment has a special focus on Arctic ecosystems. Prioritized activities for 2012 are listed below:

- Technologies for environmental monitoring
- Biodiversity and ecosystem sensitivity, of particular interest is the Arctic ice-edge ecosystem
- Environmental challenges of CO₂ capture and storage
- Environmental challenges related to heavy oil
- Environmental consequences of renewable energy systems and energy carriers, such as offshore wind power and biofuel

Biotechnology

Applications are accepted within the following areas:

The Biotechnology-area will focus on the use of biotech throughout the entire value chain of an oil and gas company. Specially, it will emphasize on biotechnology used to drive the industry in an environmentally sustainable direction.

Important themes could be:

- Establish metagenome libraries from the oil reservoirs. This will enable the study of gene-products in a non-culturable dependent way. The gene libraries could also be taken from habitat of particular interest, i.e. oil contaminated or extreme conditions.
- Metagenomes in aim of developing markers or probes for exploration, monitoring and characterization; could be lab-on-a-chip systems, microarray etc.
- Bioconversion of heavy oil, with special focus on EOR and the metabolic conversion of heavy components of the oil.
- Biotech related mitigation methods for increased productivity.
- Advanced biotech processes for production of bio-fuels.

Procedures for VISTA applications:

Applying for VISTA funding is a twofold process:

1. **STEP 1:** The applicant submits a short project description as well as CV and references for the candidate within the deadline to the VISTA administration (vista@dnva.no). The area division presents a prioritized list of applications to the board at the first meeting following the deadline (2 times a year).
2. **STEP 2:** The VISTA board invites prioritized applications from step 1 to submit a complete application. Complete applications are evaluated and ranged by the area division and presented to the VISTA board who makes the final approval of projects and candidates.

VISTA complies with Norwegian Government pay regulations, which usually starts at It 50 for Phd (2012) and 57 (Postdoc). A higher salary might be considered for exceptionally good candidates. Overhead is calculated to 30% of salary costs. VISTA's current yearly lump sum for operations is up to NOK 150.000. Accepted VISTA Phd/Postdocs are employed by The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.

VISTA normally requires an average grade of B or better for the candidates. Only applications with an identified candidate will be considered.