VELS

INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ADVANCED STUDIES (VISTAS)
(Deemed to be University Estd. u/s 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)
PALLAVARAM, THALAMBUR, PERIYAPALAYAM, THIRUVANMIYUR - CHENNAI



POLICY GUIDELINES FOR SUSTAINABLE FUNDING / DONATIONS

Vels Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies (VISTAS),
Chennai-600117.

1. Introduction

The Vels Institute of Science, Technology, and Advanced Studies (VISTAS) believes that sustainable funding and responsible donation practices are critical to advancing academic excellence, research innovation, social responsibility, environmental stewardship, community development, and institutional sustainability.

This Sustainable Funding / Donation Policy creates a framework for VISTAS to mobilize, accept, manage, invest, and utilize donations, grants, sponsorships, endowments, and philanthropic contributions. It is transparent, ethical, accountable, and sustainability-oriented.

The policy aligns with:

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles
- National Education Policy (NEP) 2020
- University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines
- Institutional sustainability objectives of VISTAS

2. Objectives of the Policy

The objectives of this policy are to:

1. Promote sustainable and ethical fundraising practices.
2. Ensure that all donations and funding activities align with the vision, mission, and values of VISTAS.
3. Support teaching, research, innovation, infrastructure, student welfare, entrepreneurship, and community outreach.
4. Encourage funding initiatives addressing sustainability, climate action, biodiversity, renewable energy, waste management, health, social inclusion, and rural development.
5. Establish transparency and accountability in the utilization of funds.
6. Strengthen alumni, industry, CSR, governmental, NGO, and international collaborations.
7. Prevent reputational, ethical, financial, and legal risks associated with funding sources.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Schools, Departments, Centers and Administrative units of VISTAS
- Faculty members
- Administrative staff
- Students and student organizations
- Alumni associations
- Research Centers and Incubation units
- Consultants, volunteers, and authorized representatives engaged in fundraising activities

The policy covers:

- Donations
- Grants
- Sponsorships
- Endowments
- Philanthropic contributions
- Research funding
- Community development funding
- International funding collaborations
- Infrastructure development support
- Sustainability-linked investments and donations

4. Guiding Principles

All funding and donation activities at VISTAS shall be governed by the following principles:

4.1 Sustainability Alignment

Funding shall contribute toward:

- Environmental sustainability
- Social responsibility
- Inclusive education
- Community empowerment
- Green campus initiatives
- Sustainable research and innovation
- Climate resilience
- Circular economy initiatives

4.2 Transparency.

All financial transactions, utilization reports, audits, and donor interactions must be transparent and fully documented.

4.3 Ethical governance

VISTAS must preserve its independence in academic, administrative, and research decisions, regardless of the amount of funding received.

4.4 Accountability.

All funds must be used solely for approved purposes and subject to internal and external audits.

4.5 Equity and inclusivity

Funding opportunities will encourage gender equity, rural outreach, and accessibility for the disabled, and economically disadvantaged groups.

5. Sources of Funding and Donations

VISTAS may receive funding from:

5.1 Internal Sources

- Alumni contributions
- Faculty and staff voluntary contributions
- Institutional corpus and reserves

5.2 External Sources

- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds
- Industries and corporate partners
- Government agencies
- National and international funding agencies
- Philanthropic foundations
- Trusts and societies
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Individual donors
- Research collaborators

6. Priority Areas for Sustainable Funding

VISTAS shall prioritize funding for:

Academic and Research Development

- Innovation ecosystems
- Interdisciplinary sustainability research

Environmental Sustainability

- Renewable energy projects
- Water conservation systems
- Waste management
- Biodiversity conservation
- Green buildings

Social Sustainability

- Women empowerment initiatives
- Community health initiatives

Student Development

- Sustainable innovation competitions
- Green entrepreneurship
- Student research projects
- Sustainability clubs and outreach programs

Community Engagement

- Village adoption programmes
- SDG-based awareness campaigns
- Livelihood enhancement programmes

7. Unacceptable Sources of Funding

VISTAS reserves the right to reject funding from organizations or individuals involved in:

- Human rights violations
- Environmental destruction
- Illegal financial activities
- Corruption or fraud
- Discrimination based on caste, religion, gender, race, or disability
- Tobacco-related industries
- Activities harmful to public health or sustainability
- Any Organizations damaging institutional reputation

VISTAS shall not be accept funding that compromises academic freedom, research integrity, or institutional autonomy.

8. Due Diligence and Donor Verification

Before accepting donations, VISTAS shall verify the following douments:

- Legal identity of donor
- PAN/GST registration where applicable
- Financial legitimacy
- CSR eligibility
- Compliance with Indian laws and regulations
- Alignment with VISTAS values and sustainability principles

9. Financial Transparency and Audit

The University shall ensure:

- Annual audit of donated funds
- Proper bookkeeping and accounting
- Compliance with statutory audit norms
- Periodic disclosure of major funding initiatives
- Internal monitoring mechanisms

In VISTAS, the Audit reports may be reviewed by the Governing Body and Finance Committee.

10. Complaints and Grievance Redressal

Any complaint relating to donation or funding activities shall be submitted to:

- Registrar
- Finance Officer
- Sustainable Funding and Donation Committee

Complaints shall be investigated transparently and resolved through institutional procedures.

11. Monitoring and Review

This policy shall be reviewed every three years or earlier if required based on:

- Regulatory changes
- Sustainability priorities

- Institutional expansion
- Funding landscape changes
- ESG compliance updates

12. Conclusion

Vels Institute of Science, Technology, and Advanced Studies' Sustainable Funding / Donation Policy confirms its commitment to responsible fundraising, sustainability-driven investments, ethical governance, community participation, and long-term institutional resilience.

The University will work to ensure that all donations and financing activities contribute significantly to academic excellence, societal growth, environmental stewardship, and the accomplishment of sustainable development goals.