



# **GAIN: Global Academic Inventors Network Mentee User Guide**



# Get on demand career help from National Academy of Inventors members



Access personal coaching from professionals who've worked at top companies across different industries



**CAREER  
CONVERSATIONS**



**RESUME  
CRITIQUES**



**INVENTION  
BRAINSTORMS**

***AND MUCH  
MORE...***

# Register as a mentee



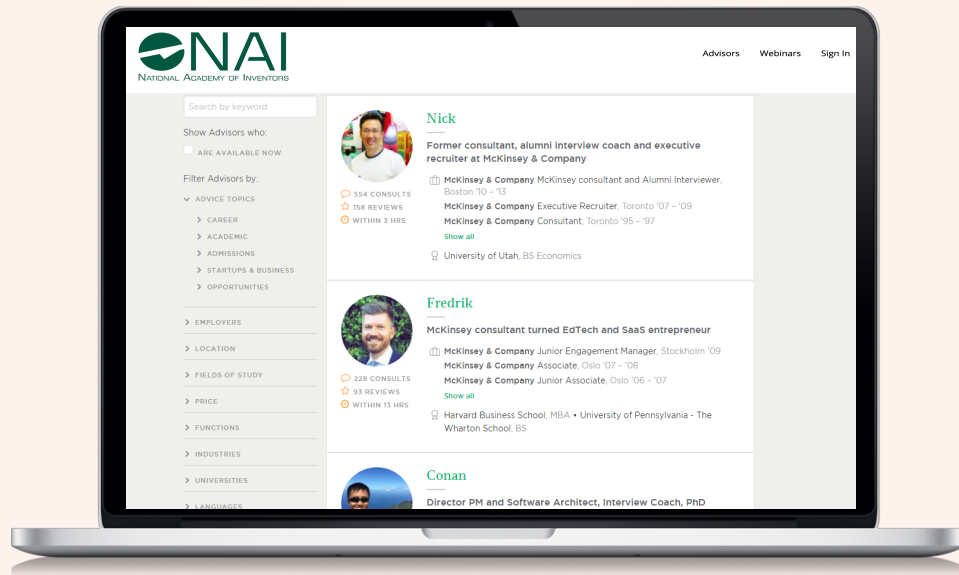
- Visit [nai.firsthand.co](https://nai.firsthand.co), click 'Get Advice' and create your profile
- Enter your contact information, discipline of interest, and goals surrounding innovation.
- View suggested mentor matches and request a consultation, or view all mentors



# Search and select the right mentor

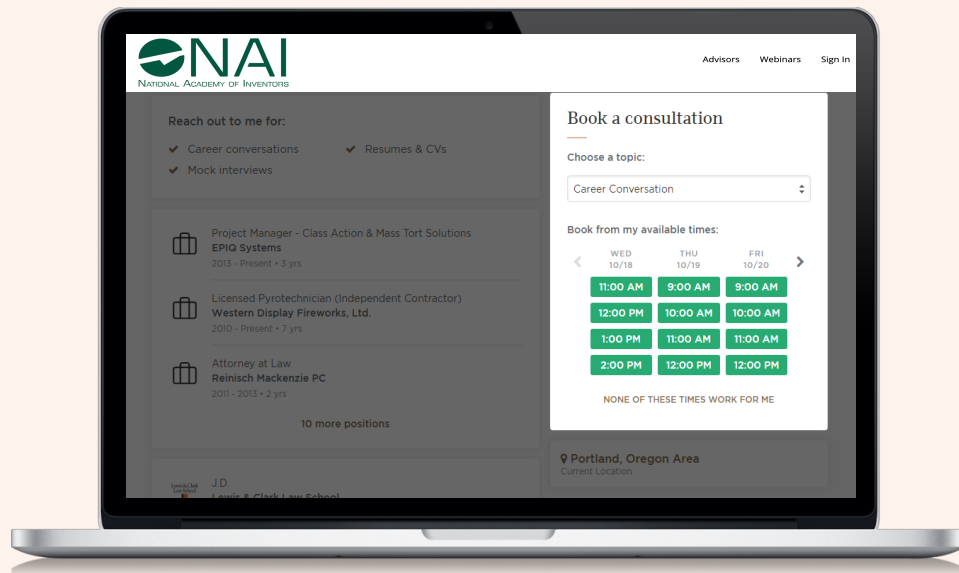


- Browse mentor profiles to find someone you're interested in talking to
- Filter mentors by function, industry, employer, type of consultation, location, field of study, language, and more
- Once you've found a mentor, click on their profile to learn more about them and book a consultation
- Easily send off templated message to connect



# Book your consultation

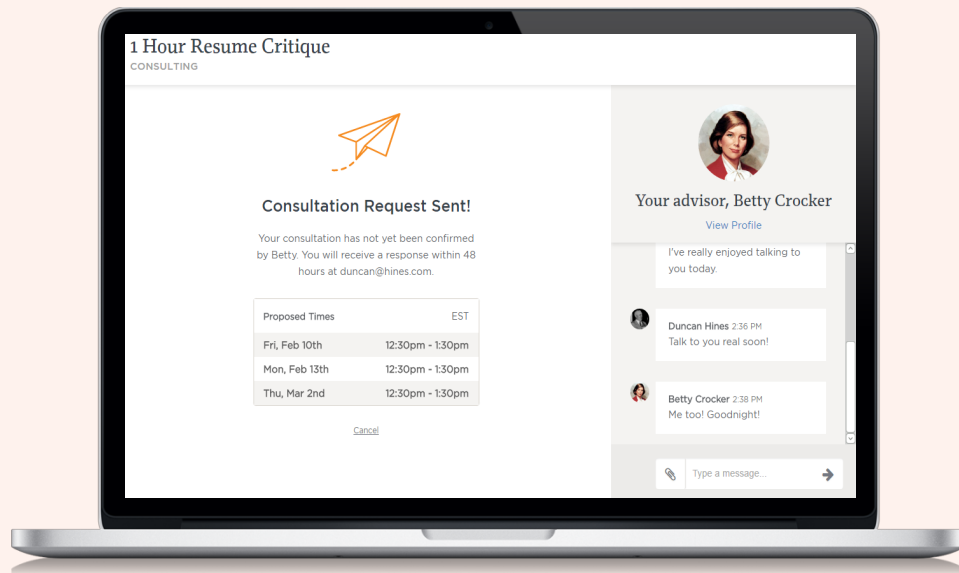
- Select a time to connect with them under “Book a Consultation”
- Suggest three meeting times and write a message introducing yourself and outlining what you’d like to get out of the consultation
- Submit your request and wait for the mentor to accept one of your suggested times



# Connect with your mentor



- Your consultation homepage allows you to message your mentor and upload files in preparation for your session
- Dial in to the conference line provided to connect with your mentor at the scheduled time
- Provide feedback on your consultation once complete



# FAQ



- **How do I know if the mentor I select is right for me?**

Before requesting a meeting, mentees can review the mentor's profile online, including any available feedback from other mentees. You can also view a mentor's current title, work experience, academic background and, when available, general schedule.

- **Will the mentor be able to see my phone number or email address?**

No, your phone number and email address are never shared with the mentor as all communication is routed through your consultation homepage.

# Tips for a successful consultation



- **Before your consultation:**

- Write an introductory message and upload any documentation that will be relevant to your call (e.g. resume, cover letter, job description, etc.)
- Respect the mentor's time commitment by planning and preparing topics of discussion. Prepare specific, intelligent, and productive questions that can guide your discussion.

- **During your consultation:**

- Be prepared to briefly introduce yourself professionally.
- Prior to your session think about your purpose for talking with a particular mentor. Would you like to learn more about the invention, patent filing, research etc.?
- Remember to keep the conversation professional. Do not ask personal questions or ask a mentor directly for job placement or internship assistance.
- Strive to be a receptive and active listener

- **After your consultation:**

- Show appreciation for the time and assistance given by the mentor by sending a follow up thank-you message. Note that unless the mentor provides his/her contact information during the call, you must do this within 24 hours of the consultation, while your consultation homepage is still active





Ready to build a network of  
successful inventors?

[GAIN@academyofinventors.org](mailto:GAIN@academyofinventors.org)  
[NAI.FIRSTHAND.CO](http://NAI.FIRSTHAND.CO)