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
Register as a mentee

• Visit 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
• **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?

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