



GAIN Mentorship Program

*Connecting Today's Experts with
Tomorrow's Innovators*

Mentee User Guide

What is GAIN?

EFFORTLESS MENTORING PLATFORM

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

Access personal coaching from professionals who've worked at top universities across different technologies available for career conversations, resume reviews, invention brainstorming and much more!



Contact: GAIN@academyofinventors.org

Register as a Mentee



Step 1: Visit nai.firsthand.co, click 'Get Advice' and create your profile.

Step 2: Enter your contact information, discipline of interest, and goals surrounding innovation. **Please be sure to click SAVE at the top of the screen!**

Step 3: View suggested mentor matches and request a consultation or view all mentors.

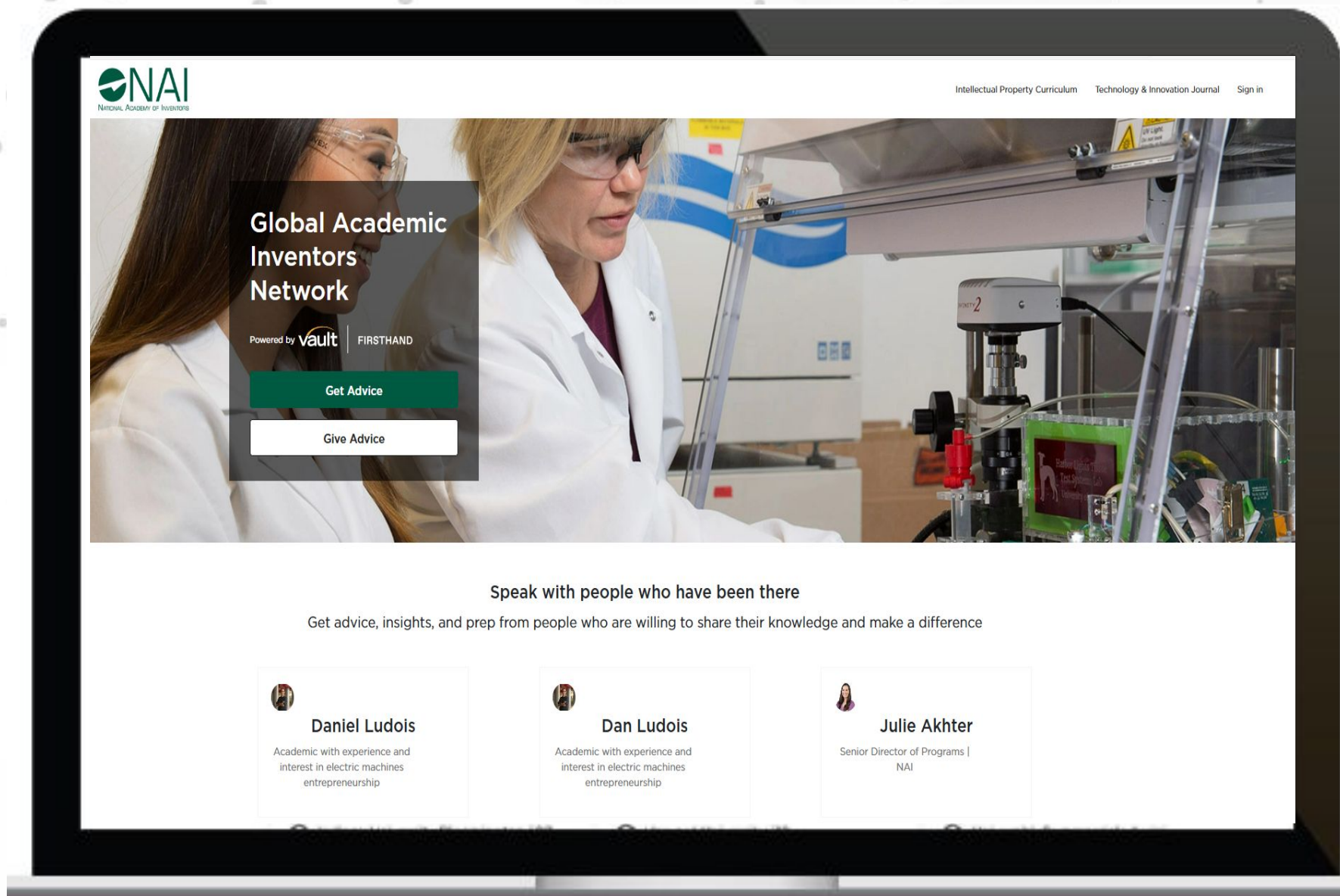
Find the Right Mentor

Browse Mentor Profiles

Find someone you're interested in talking to. Filter mentors by function, industry, employer, type of consultation, location, field of study, language and more.

Learn About Mentors

Once you've found a mentor, click on their profile to learn more about them and book a consultation. Easily send off templated messages to connect.





Book Your Consultation

Select a time to connect with a mentor under “Book a Consultation”

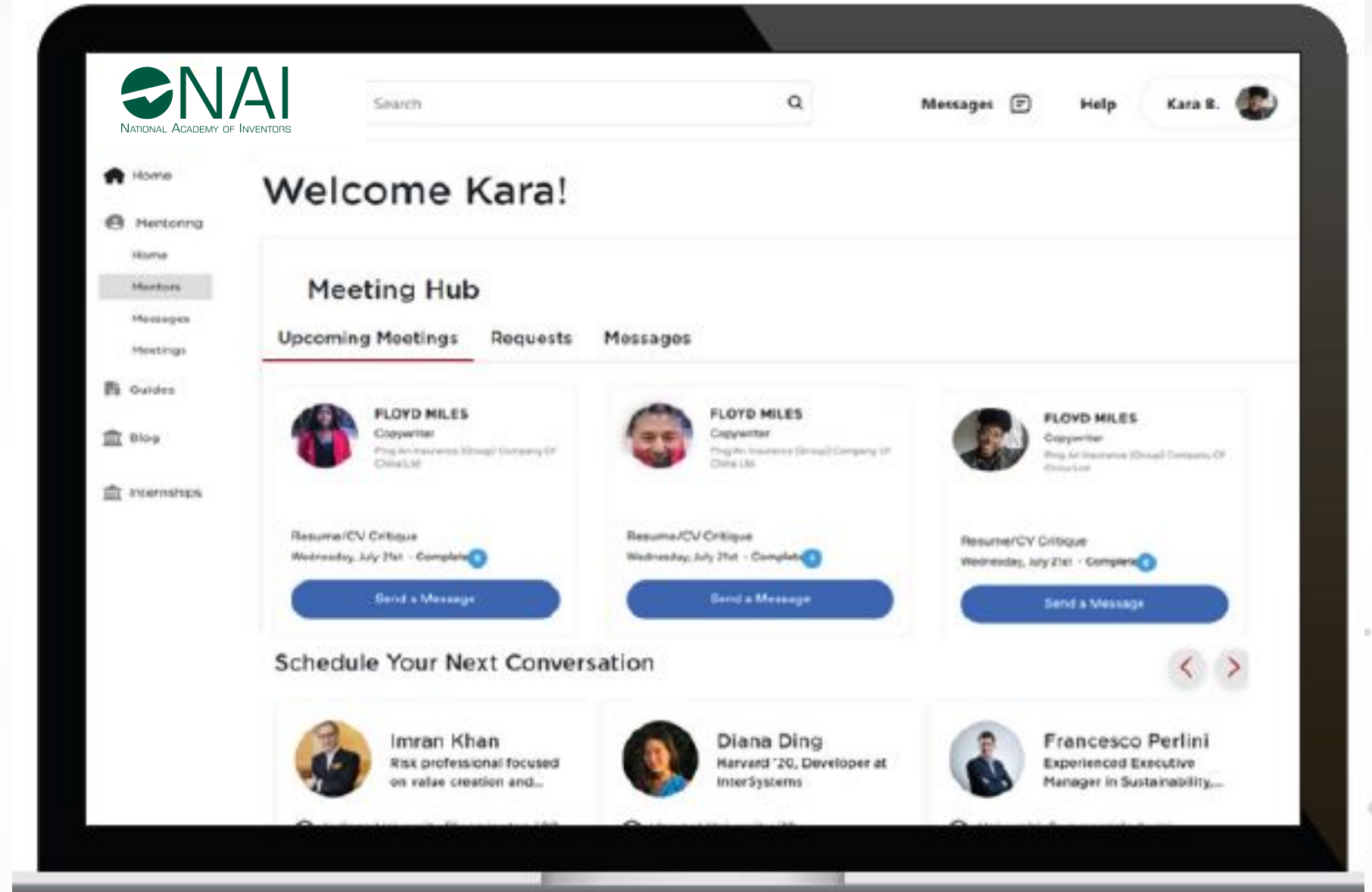
Suggest three meeting times and write a message introducing yourself and outlining what you’d like to get out of the consultation.

Submit your request and wait for the mentor to accept on of your suggested times.

Connect With Mentor

CULTIVATE AUTHENTIC CONNECTIONS

- Your consultation homepage allow you to message your mentor and upload files in preparation for your session.
- Use the web link provided to connect with your mentor at the scheduled time.
- Provide feedback on your consultation once completed.



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 Meeting

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



Explore Today

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Reach out to

GAIN@academyofinventors.org

for any questions or concerns

