

Seeker Policy Guidelines and Code of Ethics

As a seeker on the PEC Brain Gain Portal, you may be a student looking for guidance, a startup needing mentorship, an industry representative seeking solution to complex engineering problem, or an academic exploring international collaboration. These guidelines are designed to help you engage ethically and effectively with contributors across the platform.

1. Clear Communication

- a. Clearly define your problem, research area, or mentorship need when posting requests.
- b. State your expectations, timelines, and goals honestly.
- c. Use respectful language and be professional in all interactions.

2. Responsible Use of Expertise

- a. Respect the time and contributions of mentors and experts.
- b. Do not ask for free labor beyond reasonable voluntary support.
- c. Acknowledge support received and give public credit if agreed.
- d. Be transparent about affiliations, confidentiality, and intended use of advice.

3. Confidentiality and Respect for IP

- a. Treat the contributor's insights and materials as private unless otherwise agreed.
- b. Do not share or misuse guidance, drafts, or co-developed work without mutual understanding.
- c. Use NDAs when needed to formalize confidentiality.

4. Engagement and Follow-up

- a. Respond to mentorship offers and collaboration replies in a timely manner.
- b. Update your request status if resolved or no longer relevant.
- c. Leave feedback when collaboration concludes.

5. Ethical Use of Platform

- a. Avoid posting vague or unrealistic demands.
- b. Do not impersonate others or misrepresent your identity.
- c. Respect platform norms — no marketing, spamming, harassment, or misuse of features.
- d. Violations may result in suspension or permanent removal from the platform.