

# ForagerOne Product Guide

A web platform to boost educational outcomes and academic research.



## Foreword

Higher-education institutions are research hubs, with faculty dedicated to making contributions that shape and transform their fields of study. But, these institutions also cultivate the next generation of researchers – students – preparing and training them to carry on the legacy.

ForagerOne was founded on the idea that research drives the world forward by a team of students and recent graduates from the Johns Hopkins University. Our mission is to create networks and tools that promote and accelerate research at all levels, in every field.





## Introduction

Higher-education institutions in recent years have increasingly focused on improving undergraduate education. Leading institutions such as Harvard, Columbia, and Johns Hopkins have charged internal teams with evaluating and improving the undergraduate experience, a major component of which is undergraduate research. Despite the fact that 89% of faculty stress the importance of involving undergraduates in their research, students still experience the barriers and challenges of joining the research community.

Undergraduate research involvement is universally known to enhance educational outcomes and student success, but it can also strengthen an institution's community. A 2016 Gallup Poll<sup>1</sup> demonstrated that students are 3.2x more likely to donate back to their institution if they were engaged in a meaningful activity that applied classroom learning. Furthermore, students are 6.1x more likely if they had a professor/mentor who excited them about learning, cared for them, and encouraged them. Pursuing research provides undergraduates with opportunities to have those experiences.

Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows often play an integral role in these experiences as direct mentors for undergraduate researchers. Yet, they also benefit from these interactions through developing skills in

mentorship, communication, and management that are critical to their professional development in an increasingly competitive market.<sup>2-5</sup>

Higher-education institutions by their very nature can be decentralized, minimizing connectivity between different divisions, schools, and departments, consequently limiting important experiential learning opportunities for students and hindering collaboration between faculty. An additional repercussion of decentralization is that administrations are unable to effectively track and monitor student and faculty research activity and educational outcomes, preventing them from systematically addressing weaknesses in their institution's research ecosystem and undergraduate curriculum.

We at ForagerOne have tackled these challenges by creating a web platform that centralizes and boosts academic research by connecting students, faculty, and administrators. ForagerOne facilitates student involvement in faculty research, faculty collaboration, and equips institutional officials with powerful analytics that guide targeted approaches toward enhancing their institution's research ecosystem and quality of education. By implementing our platform at institutions, we are also actively growing a network across institutions, providing new and exciting opportunities for connection and collaboration. This document outlines our product's features and capabilities.



## Connecting Students with Faculty Mentors

Over 80% of undergraduate students nationwide acknowledge the difficulty of getting involved in research. Even students who do conduct research often feel that the work they are doing does not match their expectations. Recognizing these challenges, we have created a streamlined method to ensure that all students can find and connect with the right faculty mentors for them.



### Student Profiles

Students create profiles highlighting key information such as their academic background, coursework, and relevant experiences in their areas of interest. Students can make their profiles discoverable to be actively recruited by faculty looking to expand their research teams.



### Search

The backbone of our platform is a novel data solution which allows us to aggregate and present information about all the faculty researchers at any given institution. Through our comprehensive database of faculty profiles, students can search for faculty within and outside their institution\* and filter through them using various criteria (e.g. by departments, keywords, research areas, if they are accepting students, etc.).



### Bookmark

With a click of a button, students can add faculty whose work they find exciting to their bookmarks. They can then parse through their bookmarks to decide which faculty researchers they would like to approach.



### Apply

From their shortlist, students can begin applying to work with faculty. We pull a student's ForagerOne profile information and couple it with a brief but tailored interest statement written by the student for each faculty to whom he/she applies. This thorough, competitive, and tailored application allows each student to put his/her best foot forward.

\*Students can only search across institutions that have adopted ForagerOne and opted to join our network.



## Helping Faculty Grow Their Research Teams

For faculty, involving students in their work can be challenging and time-consuming; over 75% of faculty are dissatisfied with the current method of involving students. Yet, they recognize that undergraduate research is a vital part of their role as teachers and scholars in academia. So, we make the process as convenient and effortless as possible. Our platform allows faculty to review student applications they've received, recruit students, connect with potential faculty collaborators, and even have their graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and assistants act on their behalf.



### Automated Profile Creation

Through our automated profile creation, we have pre-assembled profiles ready for all the faculty members at any given institution. Faculty simply have to review their profiles and edit any information they would like to change once they have claimed their ForagerOne profile.



### Recruitment

Faculty users can use a simple toggle switch on their profile to indicate whether they are accepting students, as well as post any open positions or projects for which students may apply. Faculty can review, filter through, and respond to any applications as they are received directly through their application portal. Finally, faculty can search for and recruit students with specific skillsets.



### Collaboration

Faculty can similarly use our comprehensive database of faculty to find and connect with other faculty who might be interested in collaborating on new or ongoing projects, particularly outside of their immediate fields of study. Faculty can even search outside of their own institution\*.



### Proxy Functionality

Faculty may allow graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and administrative assistants to act on their behalf. Proxies can be authorized to edit profiles, post positions, communicate with students and faculty, and respond to applicants on behalf of the faculty member. Proxy activity can always be monitored by the faculty member.

\*Faculty can only search across institutions that have adopted ForagerOne and joined our network.





## **Enabling Administrators & Officials to Enhance Education and Foster Research**

We realize that administrators play a crucial role in driving their institution's research ecosystem and improving students' educational outcomes. Our goal is to help such administrators further cultivate these ecosystems by equipping them with actionable analytics pertaining to their institution.

Administrators often lack accurate, real-time, and centralized data on the educational and research aspects of their institution. Through analyzing the interactions on ForagerOne, we provide administrators with actionable analytics. These metrics can be used to

drive decisions and take targeted approaches to tackle inefficiencies and shortcomings in the educational and research divisions of the institution.

ForagerOne can provide a broad range of analytics, including the demographics of students engaged in research and the faculty mentoring them, research activity across academic departments, and feedback on the quality of the interactions taking place.

The implications of building a strong research community are far-reaching, from enhancing the undergraduate experience and improving educational outcomes, to boosting an institution's reputation and strengthening admissions, recruitment, and rankings.

## References

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Let's push the envelope, together.

Contact us at [team@foragerone.com](mailto:team@foragerone.com) to schedule a demo and learn more.

