With so many posts and ads throughout LinkedIn, it can be difficult to decipher what’s actually an ad, and why ad placement on LinkedIn might benefit your company. LinkedIn has multiple kinds of ads, and each ad type has specifications like character count, pixel sizes, and other requirements. Determining which ad type is right for your campaign begins with where your ad will show to your audience, the make-up of your messaging, and your ad objective. Here is a look at your LinkedIn ad options, and how to identify the right one to meet your advertising goals.

**Sponsored Content: News feeds + Brand Awareness/Lead Generation**

Single Image, Video, and Carousel (multiple cards) ads all fall within the category of Sponsored Content on LinkedIn, and appear within news feeds of users. With high visibility, eye-catching content, and ability to set up call-to-action buttons, these ads are key if your objective is to build awareness for your brand or generate new leads.

**Sponsored InMail: Inboxes + Specific Targets/Customers**

InMail is a form of Direct Sponsored Content which allows advertisers to send their ad directly into your inbox. Though the list of ad specifications is a bit lengthy, consider this ad type if you have a very defined target audience or have a specific list of desired contacts on LinkedIn, and purchasing email lists is out of budget.
Follower Ads: Sidebar + Gaining Page Followers + Dynamic Content

If you’re looking to build a greater audience for your LinkedIn page, consider Follower Ads. Based upon the target audience, the ad pulls the potential new followers profile information and makes it part of the ad. By associating the profile picture and name (via autofill) with your company’s name and a specific call-to-action, it encourages engagement.

Job Ads: Job Pages and Member Feeds + Recruitment

The last of the dynamic content ads, Job Ads are a method of recruiting outreach that couples your targeted audience with the job opportunities you’re hiring for. Shown on Job pages and multiple other places on member feeds, these ads are highly visible to users.

Spotlight Ads: Company Page + Thought Leadership + Driving Engagement to a Specific Page

Similar to Follower Ads in that it uses dynamic content based on the user, Spotlight Ads sit on your company’s page and send users to a specific landing page or URL. These ads are effective to drive engagement to a page you’d like to promote, like event registration pages, product promotions, etc.

Text Ads: Sidebar + Targeted Audience + Minimal Content

When scrolling LinkedIn, these ads usually appear to the right of your news feed, in a box labeled “Ads You May Be Interested In”. Available only on desktop, they allow for text, a small image, and a link. Text ads are efficient for reaching targeted audiences with straightforward content.