

InMail Best Practices

Tips for increasing response rates & engagement

Follow these best practices to increase your InMail response rates and engage with your prospective customers.

Focus on quality versus quantity

Don't inundate your recipients' inboxes. It's okay to send a follow-up InMail if a suitable timeframe has elapsed, but don't re-send someone the same message again and again.

Write a compelling subject line

Make your purpose clear and give them a reason to want to learn more. Consider mentioning your company name or theirs, or asking a question.

Be brief

Be polite, brief, and to the point. Shorter is better.

Start a conversation

More "salesy" InMails get lower response rates. Instead start a conversation.

Personalize your messages

Customize your messages and make them highly personalized. Avoid spam and canned messages. Consider some of the following:

- Demonstrate that you've done your homework on the recipient's company
- Mention a common contact
- Refer to a common LinkedIn group
- Comment on a LinkedIn group posting (theirs or someone else's)
- Discuss a common company, experience, or personal interest based on reading their profile
- Ask for an opinion

Make it about them

Make it about their needs, interests, and goals and not just your product or service. Avoid product and service descriptions.

Develop a clear call to action

Make the next steps clear. Assuming that the InMail is forwarded—as InMails frequently can be by CXO's—will it be clear what the recipient should do?

Combine InMail with other contact methods

By itself InMail can generate response rates substantially higher than email or cold calls. Some industry consultants have increased contact to meeting ratios with InMail as much as 8% using a multi-contact approach (InMail + email and/or phone calls). Mix it up and find the pattern and approach that generates the best response rates for you.

Select recipients carefully

Who you choose to InMail matters as much as what you say. Recipient response rates are likely to be higher for active LinkedIn users (high number of connections, member of many LinkedIn groups, frequent updates, and complete profile).

Remember the option to "Get Introduced"

InMail may not always be the most direct path. Where appropriate, take advantage of the LinkedIn option to "get introduced" (one of the "connect" options along with "Send InMail"). The two most successful ways to gain access to a senior executive are through an internal referral (someone in their company) and an external referral (someone outside their company that they know and trust).

Build your sales profile

The first thing an InMail recipient will do is review your profile. Poor profiles reduce InMail response rates. Review tips for building a sales profile and make sure you have a profile that builds your credibility and potential value.



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