



# Checklist to get the right Professional Profile Picture

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## Why do we need a Great Profile Picture??

Just like when you go to a job interview, the first impression you give a professional connection or a recruiter is by the way you turn up for the interview. Similarly, when someone is looking at any of your profiles your photo becomes an integral part of it- be it your **Zoom or Slack profile, Resume, LinkedIn, GitHub or Portfolio**, and it matters the most, along with your employment history and other credentials. It markets you as a strong prospective employee or a solid networking connection.

Here are tips on how to get a Great Professional Photo! These guidelines work well for all the sites where you need to project a professional image of yourself with a business photo.

1. **Pick the Right Photographer:** If you can afford it, a professional photographer can make it easier to get that perfect headshot. Or, simply ask a friend or family member (who knows how to handle a camera) to take several shots of you. Select someone who can make you smile in a natural way.
2. **Take a Selfie:** If no one is available to take your photo, you can always take a web shot of yourself using your computer's camera (if you have one). If you've got a phone with a high-quality camera, you can take a selfie by setting up a 5-10 sec timer. Make sure it looks professional before you upload it.
3. **Use a Headshot only:** Because profile photos appear as small thumbnails on LinkedIn or Resume, your photo should only be of your head, neck, and possibly a little below your shoulders.
4. **Make an Eye Contact:** Eye contact is one of the most important ways human beings connect. This means you need to look at the camera in your Profile Picture. By looking away, you are creating a natural disconnect between yourself and the person viewing your profile.
5. **Dress Professionally:** At any business platform, make sure that your photo shows you in a manner appropriate for your field. Typically, this means a formal shirt for men; could also be a blazer. For women; a nice blouse, a collared shirt, if you are going with a salwar kurta, please choose one with a collar. Choose easy colours like light blue, light grey or dark blue or dark grey, as these colours go well with almost all resume templates and LinkedIn profile. Don't pick anything with a pattern that's too busy. The keyword here is "professional." Dressing professionally also means avoiding the use of too much makeup or jewellery and distracting hairstyles.
6. **Keep it Simple:** Your photo should be of you, and only you. Avoid busy backgrounds. It's best to stand against a solid-coloured, light background
7. **Select a Current Photo:** Do not include an old photo no matter how young and attractive you look in it. Use a current picture so people aren't surprised when they meet you virtually or in person.
8. **Be Consistent:** When developing your professional online brand, consistency is key. Therefore, it is a good idea to use the same photo for all your professional and social networking profile pictures. This will make you more easily recognizable.
9. **Body Language:** And last but definitely not the least, a Professional Profile Picture is not equal to a Straight face or a Poker face picture. So, make sure you straighten your back, pull back your shoulders and **SMILE**. I would strongly suggest that you practice that professional smile. **Not too less, not too much but your natural beautiful smile.**

## Some Good Examples

