

Signing the Better Science Initiative as organisation

What is the Better Science Initiative?

The Better Science Initiative is a project that draws attention to the importance of a good academic culture for the well-being and performance of higher education professionals. Better Science presents ten calls to action that promote a diverse, equal opportunity, and sustainable academic culture.

The Better Science Initiative was founded by a grouping at the University of Bern and is aimed at all university staff. The project is funded by swissuniversities as part of the federal program "P-7 Diversity, Inclusion and Equity in Higher Education Development (2021-2024)".

Why should an organisation sign the Better Science Initiative?

By signing the calls to action on the website (www.betterscience.ch), individuals and organizations make their support for the demands and contents of Better Science visible. A signature by an organisation can be a signal as to which culture is lived. Better Science can thus be understood as a code of conduct. However, signing the calls to action can also indicate that an organisation is addressing the issues and supporting its members to lead the discussion on these issues and to implement appropriate measures.

For organisation members, signing the calls to action on behalf of the organisation can help reinforce their behaviors and norms. The organization can also incorporate the content of Better Science and the calls to action into its own code of conduct or action plan.

How can an organisation sign the Better Science Initiative?

The exact process of a signing varies by organization. It makes sense for the organizational leadership to inform themselves about the contents of the Better Science Initiative and to develop a common understanding of what the signing should entail for the organizational unit and its members. A signature should be communicated to all members.

Signatures on the website (www.betterscience.ch) can be submitted to Joel Schaad (Project Coordinator) at info@betterscience.ch. In contrast to signatures of individuals, signatures of institutions appear in blue in the list. Further communication measures can be considered together with the project management (Lilian Fankhauser).

What happens when an organization signs the Better Science Initiative?

Signing the Better Science is more than a communication measure: the signers commit themselves to entrusting a person, a commission or another body with the issue of academic culture. This person or body will be responsible for the promotion and/or development of measures to implement the calls of the Better Science Initiative and acts as a point of contact on the topic. In addition, the project management can invite the relevant persons to an annual networking meeting.

How the calls to action are to be implemented is decided by the relevant committees. The Better Science Initiative project team can provide support in developing appropriate implementation options.

Further information

Calls to action	https://betterscience.ch/en/calls-to-action/#/
Glossary and further information	https://betterscience.ch/en/learn-more/#/
Good practices for individuals and organizations	https://betterscience.ch/en/implement-now/#/
Events on research culture	https://betterscience.ch/en/agenda/#/
Curated bibliography of relevant papers	https://betterscience.ch/en/learn-more/#/

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