Focus on Climate

MSc and PhD programs for future experts in “Integrated Climate System Sciences”
Dear Readers,

Climate change is one of the most important topics of the discussions in society today. Global warming and the potential consequences in the form of droughts, floods, fires, and other natural disasters make up regular headline news, and many people have very firm opinions about climate issues. How are these facts communicated to society, what are society’s options for mitigation and adaption, and what do the media do with facts to generate a headline? These are inherent issues of the climate debate and SICSS offers a comprehensive program to prepare you for working as an expert in various fields of climate change.

Enjoy reading the brochure, and I hope to welcome you to SICSS in Hamburg in the future.

Prof. Dr. Matthias Hort
Head of SICSS

Who is who at SICSS

The School of Integrated Climate System Sciences (SICSS) is led by three Heads.

**Prof. Dr. Matthias Hort**
Head of SICSS, Center for Earth System Research and Sustainability (CEN), Universität Hamburg

**Prof. Dr. Carsten Eden**
Co-Head of SICSS, Institut für Meereskunde, CEN, Universität Hamburg

**Prof. Dr. Hermann Held**
Co-Head of SICSS, Research Unit Sustainability & Global Change, CEN, Universität Hamburg

On the operative level the SICSS Office supports the SICSS master’s and doctoral students in their daily business.

Your contact persons for the SICSS doctoral program are:

- Dr. Ingo Harms
- Dr. Berit Hachfeld

Your contact persons for the SICSS master’s program are:

- Dr. habil. Aike Beckmann
  Chair of MSc Examination Board
- Katja Grannis

For the SICSS contact details please refer to page 27.
“Climate change is a key challenge for both research and society. At the KlimaCampus Hamburg, international climate experts meet this challenge in an integrated way. This outstanding center for climate research combines the study of the natural climate system with social sciences, economics and humanities. With the graduate education program at SICSS we prepare excellent young academics for one of the most complex challenges humans have ever faced.”

Prof. Dr. Martin Claussen  
Chair Cluster of Excellence Integrated Climate System Analysis and Prediction (CliSAP), Meteorological Institute, Universität Hamburg, Director of the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology and SICSS lecturer

Join the unique and on the international level innovative School of Integrated Climate System Sciences (SICSS), which provides you the opportunity and advantage of an excellent education within the frame of a well-structured master’s and doctoral program. Combine your study of observing, modeling and predicting the earth system with studies in economics and social sciences. As a result you will be well prepared for a career as a climate expert!

SICSS offers you:

› a two-year master’s and a three-year doctoral program in the field of climate system sciences.

› excellent education, competent guidance and personal support, including guidance from leading climate experts.

› an international campus atmosphere with students from all over the world.

› an excellent location for integrated climate research in the heart of Hamburg – one of Germany’s most favorite and livable cities.

› a career support program and a broad variety of expert courses and technical and soft skills training.

› and last but not least, a graduate education program without tuition.
“My background is very much an integrated field, combining environmental geology, environmental economics and German studies. I wanted to continue this integrated approach and SICSS had the only program like this that I could find in both the US and Germany. I like the breadth of the study program that we started with and how students can select a personal focus. SICSS attracts students from all across the globe with very different backgrounds. As such, we all bring unique perspectives to the classes and a variety of strengths.”

Alex Hudy
SICSS master’s student from USA

“Since challenging research is done increasingly in teams, where different approaches, cultures and styles of thought complement each other, the international SICSS program seems perfect to me. I learn as much as possible about the climate system in a very integrated way. In addition to my main track, physics, I study the social, political and economic aspects of climate change. At SICSS I have the chance to academically analyze the devastating impact of climate change on human life and the earth system.”

Zahra Sadat Parsakhoo
SICSS master’s student from Iran

1. Be part of the KlimaCampus Hamburg and study all aspects of the climate system.
2. Benefit from a structured study program and a close mentoring.
3. Take the advantage of having the choice to give your study program either an “in-depth” or an “interdisciplinary” focus.
4. Have access to an exciting environment conducive to science and education, and use the extraordinary resources at the KlimaCampus.
5. Make use of our support program and prepare yourself for your chosen career field.
6. Feel at home in an international atmosphere and enjoy living in Hamburg.
“SICSS is a modern and vibrant graduate school, offers a great number of different courses and is very responsive to students’ demands. In SICSS you learn how to do interdisciplinary research and think beyond your own subject. That was also supportive for my current position at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, where I am dealing with the climate change mitigation in agriculture. It is a great opportunity to transfer my academic knowledge into practice.”

Dr. Armine Avagyan
SICSS doctoral alumni from Armenia

“SICSS was a great support for my PhD and my field research in Kenya. I still benefit from these experiences. SICSS was also the stepping stone for my international career in the field of Environmental Security, which began in New York and finally took me to the peace-building organization, International Alert, in London, where I now work as a Program Officer on climate change and security.”

Dr. Janpeter Schilling
SICSS doctoral alumni from Germany

Your future career

Become a climate expert! Depending on your personal interests, you will be well prepared and equipped for an international career in both applied and fundamental research, as well as for positions in government or business. After graduation our students successfully work as:

› researchers in the fields of natural, social and economic sciences, while maintaining a strong focus on the climate system and its past, present and future changes.

› consultants in the public service and private business sectors, and in non-governmental organizations.

› experts in national and international organizations working in the field of development cooperation.
Climate science is an extremely complex, multifaceted field, which is fast developing and changing. Being a climate expert means being ready to absorb and critically process new knowledge coming from different disciplines and learning to be creative in this activity. The KlimaCampus provides a stimulating academic environment, where it is possible to benefit from the interaction of colleagues from many different disciplines from both inside and outside the university. It is a special place to do science and gives the almost unique opportunity to interact in a truly interdisciplinary fashion with extremely talented colleagues.

Prof. Dr. Valerio Lucarini
Institute of Meteorology, Universität Hamburg
and SICSS lecturer

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Climate system research at the Cluster of Excellence CliSAP

SICSS is the graduate school within the Cluster of Excellence on Integrated Climate System Analysis and Prediction (CliSAP). CliSAP is funded within the framework of the Excellence Initiative of the German federal and state governments. CliSAP partners are the Universität Hamburg, the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, the Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht and the German Climate Computing Center.

CliSAP scientists work on three main project topics.

Climate analysis and prediction
How was the climate in the past? What might the climate be like a hundred years from now? What will be the consequences of the CO2 increase in the atmosphere caused by human activity?

Regional effects
Why are cities particularly sensitive to climate change and how can these effects be mitigated? How high must the coastal dikes be built in the face of sea level rise? How do volcanic eruptions affect the climate?

Climate and humans
When is climate change a security risk, due to the fact that droughts or sea level rise cause waves of human migration? What role do the media play in influencing public opinion and policy making? Do instruments like emissions trading have measurable effects?

Find more information about CliSAP here: www.clisap.de

The KlimaCampus Hamburg

KlimaCampus Hamburg is a network of universities, research institutes and federal or governmental institutions active in climate and climate-related research in the Hamburg metropolitan area. At the KlimaCampus Hamburg scientists from around the world address key questions of the climate system. As a SICSS master’s or doctoral student, you make contact with all partner institutions and the network of the KlimaCampus Hamburg. Find more information here: www.klimacampus.de
SICSS offers you a well-structured study program in climate system sciences with an internationally recognized Master of Science and PhD degree. Both master’s and doctoral programs are offered in English.

You will study with international students and renowned scientists from around the world. SICSS offers coursework in the fields of natural, social and economic sciences, as well as peace and conflict research. The number of admitted students is limited, which guarantees each student access to the instructor and creates a person-centered learning environment.

The SICSS Office team will support you in your daily activities as a student at the Universität Hamburg. The team will support you in all questions of managing your study program, before the start of it and during the time you will be with us. For more details, please refer to page 27.

As a SICSS student you will:

› become highly qualified in your field of specialization.

› develop interdisciplinary thinking.

› build up and extend your personal climate research network.

› develop your “world map” of climate system research.

1 SICSS is allocated at the Faculty of Mathematics, Information and Natural Sciences (MIN) in close cooperation with the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences (WiSo).

Study at SICSS

Daniele Vieira
SICSS doctoral student from Brazil

“I always wanted to do my PhD abroad. I believe experiencing an international environment is very important in science. SICSS was definitely a very good choice. There are students and scientists from all over the globe, and it has a very welcoming and international atmosphere. I expand both my intellectual and cross-cultural competences.”

SICSS master’s and doctoral students come from all over the world.

Tuition and other costs

Students who are enrolled at the Universität Hamburg do not pay tuition. However, there are other fees.

The semester fee at the Universität Hamburg is currently 285 Euros. Upon receipt of the semester fee the university will issue your semester documents, including a pass for the public transport system in Hamburg. Doctoral students at SICSS can be exempted from the semester fees.

Upon your request, the SICSS Office will provide information about living expenses in Hamburg and Germany.
“Our curriculum starts from a firm basis in climate physics (and in particular climate modeling) but adds the equally important aspects of global and regional biogeochemical cycling and puts all this into a broader context, including economic as well as societal implications. SICSS courses comprise a wide range of atmospheric, hydrospheric, cryospheric, pedospheric and biospheric sciences, as well as introductions and specializations into economics, social geography, media sciences and conflict research to shed light on climate system science from different perspectives. You can tailor your personal curriculum according to your strengths and interests to prepare you for a career in climate system research or communication.”

Prof. Dr. Matthias Hort
Head of SICSS

The Master of Science in Integrated Climate System Sciences

Are you research-oriented and do you have a Bachelor of Science degree related to climate system sciences with a solid background in mathematics and physics? Then SICSS invites you to join the internationally and interdisciplinatry two-year master’s program. SICSS provides you an excellent study environment with only up to 20 master’s students per year. The three tracks of the SICSS master’s program represent core scientific and academic strengths of the KlimaCampus Hamburg. Combining the fields of earth system observation, modeling and prediction with economics and social sciences is a special approach that is internationally unique.

The SICSS master’s program offers three tracks to choose from:

- Physics of the Climate System
- Biogeochemistry of the Climate System
- Climate-related Economics and Social Sciences
Your personal curriculum for Integrated Climate System Sciences

Your curriculum for the two-year SICSS master’s program is subdivided into four semesters with mandatory courses, elective courses for specialization and the preparation of your master’s thesis. You will start your studies with mandatory courses in research skills, as well as natural and social science foundation courses in climate system sciences. In the first semester you may also choose two specific elective courses, depending on your personal interests. In the semester break, you will take courses from the technical skills module, for example, scientific programming or visualization of climate data. The main goal of the second semester is to broaden your knowledge across the climate science disciplines. You will choose courses from at least two of the three possible program tracks.

The third semester features the Climate Study Project, which includes an integrated seminar and scientific writing courses to prepare you for the master’s thesis. You will find your personal supervisor and work closely together with a Klima Campus research group. The fourth and final semester is reserved for the master’s thesis.

SICSS may support you in case you would like to attend workshops and summer schools. We may also help you to arrange internships or study abroad.

Graduating as a Master of Science in Integrated Climate System Sciences

After graduation you will receive your degree and relevant documents in German and English. You will also receive an invitation to attend the annual graduation ceremony.

As a successful graduate from the SICSS master’s program, you have the opportunity to continue post-graduate studies or start your professional career.

Fast track to the SICSS doctoral program

SICSS also offers a fast track to the doctoral program for highly qualified students. With this fast track program you can complete your master and doctoral degree in four years. If you are interested and think you are qualified, please contact the SICSS Office.
How to apply for the SICSS master’s program

Who can apply?

Do you…

› hold a degree in a subject related to climate system sciences such as meteorology, oceanography or environmental physics?

› have a solid background in mathematics and physics?

› have sufficient proficiency in English?

› have the ability to combine concepts from different disciplines?

How to apply?

The application for the SICSS master’s program is a two-step process.

1. You apply online at the Universität Hamburg for the SICSS master’s program.

2. Mail the signed printout of the online registration form and the additional documents that are needed to SICSS or contact the SICSS Office.

When to apply?

Please submit your complete application documents annually between February 15th and March 31st. The selection takes place in April. Start of studies is in October each year.

For more application details please contact the SICSS Office or visit our Web site on: www.sicss.de

"SICSS is a life-changing experience! The school has just a great set of professionals, who are always willing to help students – both in academics and in all aspects of daily life. This and the interdisciplinary program of SICSS boosted my career to unexpected levels. Now I am doing a PhD in the International Max Planck Research School on Earth System Modelling in Hamburg."

Miriam Ferrer Gonzales
SICSS master’s alumni from Spain

This visualization shows variations in the global sea surface height caused by ocean current velocities.
The interdisciplinary and international atmosphere is a unique feature of studying at SICSS. Climate sciences in Hamburg have a very high academic reputation throughout the whole world. SICSS offers you the way into this research environment. The school supports your career with delicately designed course arrangements and a very special academic supervision.

Kesheng Shu
SICSS doctoral student from China

Your research may focus on basic research in the fields of earth or climate system sciences, regional and local climate impacts or relationships between humans and climate.

The focus of your doctoral research

Your research may focus on basic research in the fields of earth or climate system sciences, regional and local climate impacts or relationships between humans and climate.

The SICSS doctoral program

Are you interested in a structured three-year doctoral program in an international and interdisciplinary environment? Do you hold a master’s or comparable degree in climate-related earth system, social or economic sciences, mathematics or physics and wish to continue your research-oriented studies? Then you will find excellent conditions at SICSS.

Your doctoral studies will be embedded in the educational system of the Universität Hamburg. Our students work on their doctorates in one of the partner institutes of the KlimaCampus Hamburg.

With its interdisciplinary research environment and a maximum of about 80 doctoral students the SICSS program aims to provide excellent conditions for a professional career in research or in other fields related to climate sciences.

SICSS doctoral students did their master’s degree all over the world.

SICSS doctoral students write their thesis in various fields.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meteorology</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soil Science</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrated Geography</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oceanography</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology incl. Hydrobiology</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biogeochemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Geography</td>
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<td>Human Geography</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journalism and Communication</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geophysics</td>
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<td>Economics</td>
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<td>Geology-Paleontology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethnology</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SICSS doctoral students did their master’s degree from various universities.

- 34% from Universität Hamburg
- 30% from other German universities
- 27% from Non-European universities
- 9% from European universities

SICSS doctoral students write their thesis in various fields.

- › Meteorology
- › Soil Science
- › Integrated Geography
- › Oceanography
- › Biology incl. Hydrobiology
- › Biogeochemistry
- › Physical Geography
- › Human Geography
- › Journalism and Communication
- › Sociology
- › Geophysics
- › Economics
- › Geology-Paleontology
- › Ethnology
Your doctoral curriculum

As a SICSS doctoral student you will address your own specific research question in your research group. Besides your doctoral specialization you will be involved with the interdisciplinary framework at SICSS.

You can choose between a variety of soft skills courses like academic writing or communication and presentation skills. Various technical skills courses are offered to allow for a comprehensive doctoral phase.

The program offers you thematic excursions and the annual students retreat, where new students introduce their doctoral project and peers present their findings. The annual retreat is usually focused on a relevant, highly discussed topic related to climate research. Selected advisors, principal investigators and keynote speakers are invited for lectures and participate with students in plenary discussions.

SICSS also supports you in case you would like to attend scientific conferences and summer schools to get in touch with other scientists and professionals and to build up your personal network.

Supervision of your doctorate

An advisory panel system supports your structured doctoral phase. Your individual advisory panel consists of three scientific advisors who will mentor you. Within the first six months, the principal advisor will assist you with the development of your research outline and a timetable. The advisory panel monitors your progress and the successful submission of your thesis within three years.
"The SICSS focus is on educating and preparing the future scientists of the world. I am not only supervised by internationally recognized professors but I can also conduct many courses, seminars and training workshops at no extra cost, which enhances and complements my studies, improves my writing and presentation skills, and any other technical issues that impact a scientist’s life."

Marguerite Lee
SICSS master’s alumni and SICSS doctoral student from Trinidad and Tobago

How to apply?

Prior to officially applying to the SICSS doctoral program, three points will need to be clarified:

1. A preliminary agreement between a scientist from KlimaCampus Hamburg and you, the applicant, is needed to ensure accountability and supervision of your doctoral work.

2. Financial support for the entire three years of your doctoral term must be ensured.

3. You have to enroll at the Universität Hamburg as a doctoral student. Enrollment info: www.uni-hamburg.de/forschung/nachwuchs/promotion.html

The SICSS Office team will guide you through the steps. There are no admission dates for application or enrollment at Universität Hamburg.

Who can apply?

You are welcome to join the SICSS doctoral program if you:

- hold a very good master’s or other degree comparable to a German university diploma in disciplines or fields related to climate sciences.

- you have a clear idea about the focus of your doctorate, which you will present in a research proposal.

- your research proposal fits into one or more of the research areas of the KlimaCampus Hamburg.

If you can meet these criteria, please contact the SICSS Office team. We will pre-evaluate your curriculum vitae and application documents and provide you all required information for the next steps.

For more application details please contact the SICSS Office or visit our Web site on: www.sicss.de
"At SICSS you learn to think out of the box and to exchange your scientific findings with others. I was one of the first PhD students at SICSS and I got great support when I started with my project on climate change policy – even when my daughter was born while I was studying. The SICSS Office assisted me in searching for childcare and I could finish my PhD in the prescribed time although I only worked part-time."

Wiebke Probst
SICSS doctoral alumni from Germany

We focus on equal opportunities

"As the CliSAP Equal Opportunities Officer I support you in all questions regarding gender mainstreaming, equal treatment and diversity. I provide measures for the compatibility of career and family and I support students and employees to improve their work-life balance. You are welcome to contact me!"
E-mail: mareike.ramforth@zmaw.de
Phone: +49 40 42838 7598

The Universität Hamburg also hosts a department called Equal Opportunities and Family Affairs and an Office for Affairs of Students with Disabilities or Chronic Diseases. Visit the Campus Center for more information here:
www.uni-hamburg.de/campuscenter

Start your studies

The SICSS Office is your main contact for information and will support you with a comprehensive and practical “welcome service” by assisting with enrollment, visa application, health insurance, registration with local authorities, opening of a bank account, support in finding accommodations and language courses.

As an incoming master’s student you will receive support from a personal buddy. This personal buddy is one of the SICSS master’s students and will accompany you from the start of your travel and study planning to your arrival and during your first days in Hamburg. SICSS also offers an Orientation Week for all new first semester students, including information on your study program and excursions to climate-related institutions and sites.

If you want to apply for the SICSS doctoral program, the SICSS Office offers you support with finding your personal supervisor and appropriate funding of your doctorate.

If you are interested in the SICSS master’s program, please contact Katja Grannis
E-mail: katja.grannis@zmaw.de
Phone: +49 40 42838 7597

If you are interested in the SICSS doctoral program, please contact Dr. Berit Hachfeld
E-mail: berit.hachfeld@zmaw.de
Phone: +49 40 42838 7597

School of Integrated Climate System Sciences (SICSS)
Universität Hamburg
Grindelberg 5
20144 Hamburg
Germany
E-mail: sicss@zmaw.de
www.sicss.de

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If you are interested in the SICSS doctoral program, please contact Dr. Berit Hachfeld
E-mail: berit.hachfeld@zmaw.de
Phone: +49 40 42838 7597
“SICSS is open to students with different horizons, origins and backgrounds. There is a big exchange of cultures and traditions, as well as knowledge of different scientific domains. We all work together, and everybody can teach and learn something from the other. I see SICSS as a big family for those who are so far away from their own.”

Laure Hoeppli
SICSS master’s student from Switzerland and member of the Master Student Council

Network with your peers and exchange valuable ideas, knowledge and experiences. There are several networking opportunities and events to provide you an effective platform for student interaction.

The Master Student Council represents the SICSS master’s students. This council is elected every year. It collaborates with the SICSS Office and organizes social student events. Get in touch and write an e-mail to micss@uni-hamburg.de.

Three doctoral students’ representatives act as Doctoral Student Speakers. They represent the doctoral student body of SICSS and add their voices to current issues, as well as the future development of the graduate school. They also organize cultural and social events for the doctoral student community. The Doctoral Student Speakers are elected each year during the SICSS annual doctoral student retreat.

After their graduation, the SICSS students stay in contact with SICSS Alumni Net.

Many of the SICSS students are active participants in networking platforms for young scientists such as the community of Young Earth System Scientists (yESS) or the international Earth Science Women’s Network (ESWN).
PIASTA – we strive for interculturality on our campus!

“We are an intercultural team at the Department of International Affairs, Universität Hamburg. Our mission is to support intercultural living and studies at our university. Most of our events, courses and seminars are held “by students, for students”. We offer welcome and cultural events, training and coaching, and information and advice regarding all study-related topics. We invite you to participate in everything we have to offer and wish you success and fun at the Universität Hamburg – with PIASTA!”

The PIASTA Team

For a smooth and successful start at the Universität Hamburg, you will find detailed information in the PIASTA brochure “First steps for new students”. You may download the handbook here: www.uni-hamburg.de/piasta

Live and study at the Universität Hamburg

The Campus Center of the Universität Hamburg provides you detailed information for managing your study program, study fees and funding. It also has useful information about campus life. Visit the Campus Center here:

www.uni-hamburg.de/campuscenter

The Department of International Affairs at the Universität Hamburg provides comprehensive information about all matters relating to residency and financing your studies, or about studying abroad. Find more information here:

www.uni-hamburg.de/internationales_e.html

For information about scholarships and how to take the first ten steps to studying in Germany, contact the German Academic Exchange Service. Find the information you will need here:

www.daad.de/en/

The Studierendenwerk Hamburg is the service portal for studying in Hamburg. It supports you with all relevant information regarding accommodations, child care, or living and studying in Hamburg. Visit the Studierendenwerk Hamburg here:

www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de

The Career Center at the Universität Hamburg accompanies you through all stages of your career development process. Find more on www.uni-hamburg.de/career-center.html

The Student Council of the Universität Hamburg, also known as ASTA, is hosting different cultural and social events for students. Visit their site here:

www.asta-uhh.de

And last but not least, the Universität Hamburg offers a variety of language courses and university sports and music programs.

Universität Hamburg signed the Code of Conduct which formulates quality standards for international students at German universities. This agreement comprises standards international applicants can rely upon including “provision of comprehensive information”, “academic, language and social support” and “services for international students on and after completing their studies”.
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Phone: +49 40 42838 7597
E-mail: sicss@zmaw.de
www.sicss.de

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Julika Doerffer, Hamburg
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