

STRATEGIC PROPOSAL: INSTITUTIONAL RANKING ELEVATION (2026–2028)

Principal Investigator: Dr. Subhanil Guha

Global Rank: #51,246 (Stanford-Elsevier 2025)

Primary Field: Geomatics Engineering & Ecology (#539 Globally)

PhD Award Date: December 2021

1. OVERVIEW

This proposal outlines a strategic pathway for the institution to significantly improve its global standing in the **QS World University Rankings** and **Times Higher Education (THE)** metrics. By appointing Dr. Subhanil Guha as an **Independent Solo Principal Investigator (PI)**, the institution acquires a high-velocity citation profile that addresses the "representation gap" currently existing in Geography, Geoinformatics and Geosciences departments.

2. CORE IMPACT ON GLOBAL RANKING METRICS (KPIs)

Dr. Guha's research profile is a high-yield asset for institutional prestige:

- **KPI A: Citations per Faculty (Research Impact):**
With an average **Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI) of 2.445** with **10 papers having > 5 FWCI** and *specific papers* exceeding **31.0+, 16+, 11+, and 10+**, Dr. Guha's publications are cited significantly more than the global average. Transitioning his primary affiliation to the university will cause an immediate upward shift in the university's total citation metrics.
- **KPI B: International Research Network (IRN):**
Dr. Guha is currently finalizing **two monographs for Springer Nature and Taylor & Francis** detailing the thermal resilience of **60+ European Cities**. This pan-European data analysis directly satisfies the "International Collaboration" criteria in THE and QS rankings.
- **KPI C: Editorial & Reviewer Influence:**
With **725 verified reviews in Web of Science** (Top 1% globally) and an **Associate Editor** role at *Frontiers in Sustainable Resource Management*, Dr. Guha enhances the "Academic Reputation" of the host institution through high-level international visibility.

3. INDEPENDENT SOLO PI RESEARCH PROGRAM (2026–2027)

To maximize ROI and institutional prestige, Dr. Guha will focus on:

1. **Thermal Resilience Modelling:** High-impact Q1 publications using multi-seasonal Sentinel and Landsat 8/9 data.
2. **Immediate Funding (2026):** Application for the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship or other significant research programme to secure external salary and research costs.
3. **Flagship Funding (2027):** Utilizing his current global rank of **51,246 (World Top 2%)** to secure multi-million euro [e.g., ERC Starting Grant (€1.5M)] funding as a representative of the Host Institution.
4. **UN-SDG 11 Excellence:** Aligning the university's output with the EU's "Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities" missions (31 existing documents in SDG 11).

4. INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR OPTIMAL ROI

To deliver these measurable ranking improvements, the following baseline support is requested:

- **Hiring Category:** Research Professor / Senior Principal Investigator (Independent Solo PI).
- **Residency:** Flexible/Output-based affiliation to maximize research productivity.
- **Instructional Load:** 100% Research focus (Exemption from teaching).
- **Administrative Support:** Direct channel for fast-track grant submissions (ERC/Horizon Europe).