

Teaching Assistants and Research Assistants Baseline Stipends – Fiscal Year 2026

UK's Graduate Stipend and Benefits Committee has updated baseline graduate stipends for fiscal year 2026 for each discipline, following months of data analysis and collaboration with colleges and leadership across campus.

Requiring baseline stipends across campus ensures that every teaching assistant, research assistant and graduate assistant receives competitive compensation, along with their tuition scholarships and health insurance.

Students will learn about any changes to their stipends from their hiring department.

Starting next year, the Graduate School and Student Success will continue working with IRADS and other units across campus to analyze data and set baseline stipends each year so that we can ensure they are at or above our benchmarks.

The baseline stipend amounts for Teaching and Research Assistants, who typically work on a part-time (20-hour-per-week) appointment, were determined based on 9- or 10-month stipend averages to align with instructions related to the Oklahoma State University Graduate Stipend Survey and input from peer institutions in order to provide the best benchmark comparisons possible. In addition to listing the baseline stipend amounts based on the OSU benchmarking criteria, we have also listed the equivalent stipend amounts for departments using 20 out of 26 bi-weekly pay period appointments and annual appointments. Please note that colleges and departments can vary in the duration of Teaching and Research Assistant appointments, which may result in some differences from the values outlined below.

To minimize the financial impact of rapid increases, no baseline was raised by more than 10% during the calculation process. However, after calculation, each baseline stipend was rounded to the next \$1,000 to promote usability and transparency. As a result, many stipends increased by more than 10% year over year, the largest increase being about 15%.

The methodology was originally established by the former Graduate Stipend and Benefits Committee and will be reviewed annually by the Graduate School, Student Success, IRADS and other units to coincide with UK's submission to the Oklahoma State University Graduate Stipend Survey.

**Based on 20 out of 26 bi-weekly pay period appointment (Annual Amount X 0.769).*

***Based on OSU Benchmarking criteria (Annual Amount X 0.818).*

****Based on 26 out of 26 bi-weekly pay period appointment (Annual Amount).*

Department	20/26 Bi-Weekly Pay Period Amount*	Baseline Stipend Amount**	26/26 Bi-Weekly Pay Period (Annual) Amount***
Agricultural Economics	\$17,862	\$19,000	\$23,227
Animal and Food Sciences	\$19,742	\$21,000	\$25,672
Anthropology	\$17,862	\$19,000	\$23,227
Appalachian Center	\$17,862	\$19,000	\$23,227
Athletic Training and Clinical Nutrition	\$20,682	\$22,000	\$26,895
Business and Economics — Accountancy	\$16,922	\$18,000	\$22,005
Business and Economics — Economics	\$19,742	\$21,000	\$25,672

Behavioral Science	\$21,622	\$23,000	\$28,117
Biology	\$21,622	\$23,000	\$28,117
Biomedical Engineering	\$23,502	\$25,000	\$30,562
Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering	\$19,742	\$21,000	\$25,672
Cancer Center — Core Support	\$20,682	\$22,000	\$26,895
Center for Health, Engagement and Transformation	\$28,203	\$30,000	\$36,675
Chemical and Materials Engineering	\$23,502	\$25,000	\$30,562
Chemistry	\$22,562	\$24,000	\$29,340
CIS Graduate Studies	\$17,862	\$19,000	\$23,227
Civil Engineering	\$20,682	\$22,000	\$26,895
College of Education — Office of Research	\$18,802	\$20,000	\$24,450
College of Social Work	\$18,802	\$20,000	\$24,450
College of Medicine — Office of Biomedical Education	\$22,562	\$24,000	\$29,340
Communication Sciences and Disorders	\$15,042	\$16,000	\$19,560
Community and Leadership Development	\$18,802	\$20,000	\$24,450
Computer Science	\$20,682	\$22,000	\$26,895
Center for Applied Energy Research	\$22,562	\$24,000	\$29,340
Department of Health, Behavior and Society	\$18,802	\$20,000	\$24,450
Department of Management	\$19,742	\$21,000	\$25,672
Department of Neuroscience	\$23,502	\$25,000	\$30,562
Department of Biostatistics	\$18,802	\$20,000	\$24,450
Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health	\$21,622	\$23,000	\$28,117
Department of Finance and Quantitative Methods	\$19,742	\$21,000	\$25,672
Department of Health Management and Policy	\$18,802	\$20,000	\$24,450
Department of Marketing and Supply Chain	\$16,922	\$18,000	\$22,005
Department of Pharmacology and Nutritional Sciences	\$21,622	\$23,000	\$28,117
Dietetics and Human Nutrition	\$19,742	\$21,000	\$25,672
Early Childhood, Special Education and Counselor Education	\$17,862	\$19,000	\$23,227
Earth and Environmental Sciences	\$19,742	\$21,000	\$25,672
Education Curriculum and Instruction	\$17,862	\$19,000	\$23,227
Educational Leadership Studies	\$18,802	\$20,000	\$24,450
Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation	\$18,802	\$20,000	\$24,450
Educational, School and Counseling Psychology	\$19,742	\$21,000	\$25,672
Electrical and Computer Engineering	\$22,562	\$24,000	\$29,340

English	\$18,802	\$20,000	\$24,450
Entomology	\$22,562	\$24,000	\$29,340
Faculty Advancement	\$20,682	\$22,000	\$26,895
Family Sciences	\$17,862	\$19,000	\$23,227
Fine Arts — Music	\$15,042	\$16,000	\$19,560
Forestry and Natural Resources	\$21,622	\$23,000	\$28,117
Gender and Women's Studies	\$18,802	\$20,000	\$24,450
Geography	\$19,742	\$21,000	\$25,672
Health and Clinical Sciences	\$20,682	\$22,000	\$26,895
Hispanic Studies	\$19,742	\$21,000	\$25,672
Historic Preservation	\$15,042	\$16,000	\$19,560
History	\$17,862	\$19,000	\$23,227
Horticulture	\$21,622	\$23,000	\$28,117
Innovation and Population Health Center	\$16,922	\$18,000	\$22,005
Institute for Biomedical Informatics	\$20,682	\$22,000	\$26,895
Institute for Sustainable Manufacturing	\$21,622	\$23,000	\$28,117
Institute of Research for Technology Dev	\$21,622	\$23,000	\$28,117
Interdisciplinary Human Development	\$20,682	\$22,000	\$26,895
Internal Medicine and Div — Biomedical	\$20,682	\$22,000	\$26,895
Kentucky Transportation Center	\$20,682	\$22,000	\$26,895
Kinesiology — Health Promotion	\$17,862	\$19,000	\$23,227
Library Administration	\$20,682	\$22,000	\$26,895
Linguistics Department	\$18,802	\$20,000	\$24,450
Martin School of Public Administration	\$20,682	\$22,000	\$26,895
Mathematics	\$21,622	\$23,000	\$28,117
Mechanical Engineering	\$20,682	\$22,000	\$26,895
Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics	\$21,622	\$23,000	\$28,117
Mining Engineering	\$20,682	\$22,000	\$26,895
Modern and Classical Languages, Literature and Cultures	\$19,742	\$21,000	\$25,672
Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry	\$21,622	\$23,000	\$28,117
Nursing Instruction	\$18,802	\$20,000	\$24,450
OISTL/Engineering Distance Learning	\$21,622	\$23,000	\$28,117
Opioid/Substance Abuse RPA	\$21,622	\$23,000	\$28,117
Pharmaceutical Sciences	\$24,443	\$26,000	\$31,785
Philosophy	\$18,802	\$20,000	\$24,450
Physical Therapy	\$21,622	\$23,000	\$28,117
Physics and Astronomy	\$21,622	\$23,000	\$28,117
Physiology	\$22,562	\$24,000	\$29,340
Plant and Soil Sciences	\$21,622	\$23,000	\$28,117
Plant and Soil Sciences — RCTF	\$21,622	\$23,000	\$28,117

Plant Pathology	\$21,622	\$23,000	\$28,117
Political Science	\$18,802	\$20,000	\$24,450
Psychology	\$19,742	\$21,000	\$25,672
Radiation Medicine	\$20,682	\$22,000	\$26,895
Research and Graduate Education	\$24,443	\$26,000	\$31,785
Retailing and Tourism Management	\$16,922	\$18,000	\$22,005
School of Interiors: Planning/Strategy/Design	\$12,221	\$13,000	\$15,892
School of Architecture	\$15,042	\$16,000	\$19,560
School of Art and Visual Studies	\$13,161	\$14,000	\$17,115
Sociology	\$19,742	\$21,000	\$25,672
Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Center	\$22,562	\$24,000	\$29,340
Statistics	\$21,622	\$23,000	\$28,117
STEM Education	\$18,802	\$20,000	\$24,450
Toxicology and Cancer Biology	\$23,502	\$25,000	\$30,562
Transformative Learning	\$20,682	\$22,000	\$26,895
UK IDEA	\$20,682	\$22,000	\$26,895
Veterinary Science	\$19,742	\$21,000	\$25,672
Writing, Rhetoric and Digital Studies	\$18,802	\$20,000	\$24,450

Graduate Assistants Baseline Stipends – Fiscal Year 2026

Baseline stipend amount comparisons for Graduate Assistants were more challenging due to differences in definitions across institutions for Graduate Assistants and Graduate Associates, as well as small sample sizes for Graduate Assistant/Associates relative to Teaching and Research Assistants. In addition, Graduate Assistants often work in non-academic units that may employ students from a wide range of disciplines.

Given these challenges, UK's Graduate Stipend and Benefits Committee elected to "roll up" across discipline and rank for comparisons to establish an overall baseline stipend amount of \$22,000. The equivalent 20/26 Bi-Weekly Pay Period Amount* is \$20,682 and 26/26 Bi-Weekly Pay Period (Annual) Amount*** is \$26,895.