

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).*

	FY26 Baseline (9/10-month)	12-month conversion (Annual - 26 Biweekly Pay Periods)
Agricultural Economics	\$19,000	\$23,227
Animal and Food Science	\$21,000	\$25,672
Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering	\$21,000	\$25,672
Center for Student Success (GA only)	\$22,000	\$26,895
Community and Leadership Development	\$20,000	\$24,450
Dietetics and Human Nutrition	\$21,000	\$25,672
Entomology	\$24,000	\$29,340
Family Science	\$19,000	\$23,227
Forestry and Natural Resource Sciences	\$23,000	\$28,117
Horticulture (IPSS)	\$23,000	\$28,117
Plant Pathology	\$23,000	\$28,117
Plant and Soil Sciences (IPSS)	\$23,000	\$28,117
Plant and Soil Sciences-RCTF (IPSS)	\$23,000	\$28,117
Retailing and Tourism Management	\$18,000	\$22,005
Veterinary Science	\$21,000	\$25,672

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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.