

UK Microscope Price Guide 2026

Independent indicative price bands for UK research, cell culture and fluorescence microscopes. Produced by Plankton & Zoom — planktonandzoom.co.uk

How to use this guide

Prices are indicative UK list or quoted ranges, normally **exclusive of VAT**. They reflect what UK labs typically see in 2026 before negotiation, service contracts or trade-in allowances. Always request a formal quote from the manufacturer or an authorised UK distributor for your exact configuration.

VAT note: UK VAT applies to commercial orders. Universities and registered charities can usually reclaim VAT through standard procedures.

Quick Reference Price Table

Category	Typical UK Price Band (excl. VAT)	Example Systems
Student / teaching microscope	£200 – £1,500	Basic compound, stereo dissecting scopes
Digital microscope (USB / all-in-one)	£500 – £3,500	Dino-Lite, Keyence VHX introductory, AmScope digital
Phase contrast microscope	£6,500 – £12,500	Olympus CKX53, Leica DMI1, Zeiss Primovert, EVOS M3000
Inverted cell culture microscope	£8,995 – £25,000	EVOS M3000 / M5000, Olympus CKX53, Leica DMI1
Fluorescence microscope UK	£10,000 – £45,000	EVOS M5000, Nikon Ts2R-F, Zeiss Primovert
Automated cell counting microscope	£8,995 – £35,000	EVOS M3000, Countess 3, EVOS M7000
High-content screening system	£50,000 – £120,000+	CellInsight CX7, ImageXpress systems
Confocal / advanced research	£60,000 – £250,000+	Zeiss LSM, Leica SP8, Nikon AXR

What Affects UK Microscope Prices?

- **Optics configuration:** objectives, filters, cameras and light sources
- **Software modules:** analysis, 21 CFR Part 11 compliance, multi-user licences
- **Fluorescence channels:** each extra channel adds filters, LEDs and detectors
- **Stage and incubation:** motorized stages, on-stage incubators and environmental controls
- **Service and warranty:** on-site support contracts, installation and training
- **VAT and import:** UK VAT applies to commercial orders; charities/universities can reclaim

Manufacturer Starting Points

- Thermo Fisher Scientific UK — EVOS / Countess (thermofisher.com/uk)
- Leica Microsystems (leica-microsystems.com)
- Zeiss UK Microscopy (zeiss.co.uk/microscopy)
- Olympus Life Science (olympus-lifescience.com)

- Nikon Microscopy (microscope.healthcare.nikon.com)

Disclaimer: Plankton & Zoom is an independent review site. We do not sell, resell or broker microscope quotes. Prices are indicative only and were last updated July 2026. Always confirm current pricing, availability and support coverage with the relevant manufacturer or authorised UK distributor.

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