

Other Courses at the GAA

Diploma in Gemmology*

Diploma in Diamond Technology*

Practical Diamond Grading

Advanced Diamond Grading

Retail Diamond Consultant

Retail Opal & Pearl Consultant**

Retail Coloured Gemstone Consultant**

Retail Training by Correspondence

Synthetic and Gemmology Update

Introduction to Gems and Gemmology

Introduction to Antique Jewellery**

Jewellery Product Knowledge**

Jewellery Sketching

Jewellery Design

Pearl Threading

Advanced Pearls

Advanced Opals

Advanced Jade**

Administration, Management
and Human Resources

*Also available in Correspondence/Flexible Mode

**Not available in all States

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Queensland Division

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Western Australian Division

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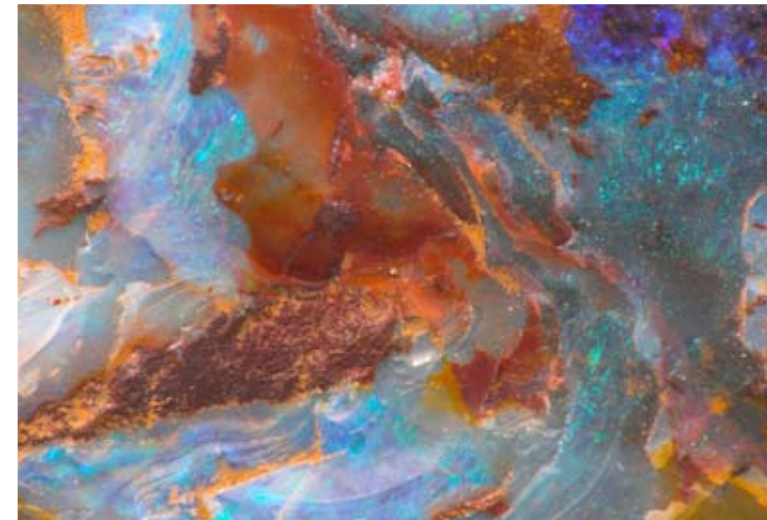
Please phone for more details
or visit **www.gem.org.au**



GAA

Gemmological Association of Australia

Advanced Opal Course



*Passionately educating the industry
and consumers about gemstones*



GAA

Gemmological Association of Australia

The gem created by “nature’s fireworks”

The unique ‘play of colour’ found in opals has contributed to its mystique and popularity since Roman times with Pliny remarking in AD 79 that opal had the ‘refulgent fire of the carbuncle, the glorious purple of amethyst, the sea green of emerald and all of these colours glittering together mixed in an incredible way’. Throughout the centuries it has been coveted by some of the world’s richest and most powerful people including Mark Antony, Napoleon and Queen Victoria.

Today, more than 90% of precious or ‘noble’ opal is from Australia. It is our national gemstone and is found in some of the country’s most isolated regions. Each region has its own distinctive type: boulder opal is found in Queensland, light opal in South Australia and black in New South Wales. The exceptional quality of Australian opal has captured the imagination of jewellers and consumers world wide.

Every opal is unique. This has contributed much to its appeal but also to it being misunderstood. The GAA Advanced Opal Course will provide you with the essential background and practical knowledge required by those that buy, sell, identify or value opals. Consisting of ten modules, this course will provide you with an in-depth theoretical and practical knowledge of this fascinating gem.

Course details

Some of learning outcomes in the theory and practical components of this course include:

The international history of opal with a focus on its history in Australia; including long-held folklore and superstitions that have been held by opal traders, collectors and craftsmen.

Learning to describe all types of precious opal using appropriate terminology and internationally accepted nomenclature.

Learning about occurrences of precious opal world-wide and the current theories and postulations about geological environment and opal formation.

Developing a greater understanding of the ‘play of colour’ phenomenon and how opal is associated with Australian scientific discoveries.

To learn more about mining in Australia’s opal districts throughout South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland.

Study the steps involved in the processing of opal (cutting, polishing and carving) and the marketing of our national gemstone.

To learn about the manufacture of opal composites, doublet and triplet opals as well as the more modern techniques of opal mosaic and opal inlay.

Confidently identify synthetic opal and opal imitations. Find out about past and present opal treatments.

Gain confidence in evaluating precious opal. In practical instruction you will learn to properly examine specimen opals, opal fossils, and pseudomorphs.

Qualification

Advanced Opal Certificate awarded by the GAA.

Pre-requisites

Nil (although Diploma in Gemmology is recommended).

Duration

16 hours.

Assessment

A take home opal assignment to be submitted to the local GAA branch.

Equipment

Hand lens required.

Course Code: **GAAAO**

