

Diploma in Gemmology



Australia's Leading Educator in Gemmology

The Board of Studies and Examinations (BOS&E) is a division of the GAA. It is responsible for course content, updating the syllabus to include new sources of gem materials, new synthetics and new treatments, and for setting final examinations. GemEd, another division of the GAA, manages the delivery of GAA-endorsed courses throughout Australia.

The Diploma in Gemmology is GAA's flagship course. It is focused on a systematic study and identification of all gem materials, whether natural or synthetic, with or without additional treatments. The course is based on established scientific principles and is delivered at a professional level.

The Diploma in Gemmology is a challenging and rewarding course which requires commitment. By the end of the course, students will have the practical and theoretical knowledge and skill to identify gem materials and any treatments to which they may have been subjected.

- The GAA's **Diploma in Gemmology** is recognised as the Australian benchmark to become qualified in the identification and handling of gems
- Fuel your passion for gemstones, learn the inside knowledge of the trade or inspire your enthusiasm for your own collection.
- Gain the **knowledge and confidence** to accurately identify natural, synthetic and treated gemstones
- With technological advances constantly introducing new synthetic and treated gemstones to the market - learn how to 'spot a fake'
- Give your career a boost or enhance your employment opportunities
- Gain valuable contacts and life long friends.
- Upon successful completion, apply to become a **Fellow of the GAA** and use the post-nominal **FGAA**.

COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY

Gemmology 1

- Physical and optical properties of gemstones
- Methods of testing gemstones based on physical and optical properties
- Elementary chemistry, crystallography and mineralogy as a basis for understanding and interpreting the information from the gem testing instruments
- Practical gem testing techniques using hand lens, refractometer, polariscope, dichroscope, spectroscope, ultraviolet light, specific gravity and colour filters
- Microscopy and inclusions in gem materials
- Geology and occurrences of gemstones
- Gemstones covered include
 - Silica gems - varieties of quartz and chalcedony
 - Feldspars – such as moonstone and labradorite
 - Ornaments - including turquoise and lapis lazuli
 - Organic gems - pearls, amber, jet, coral and more

Gemmology 2

- Greater detail in the use of instruments
- Systematic identification of gem materials and the writing of detailed laboratory reports
- Synthetics
 - Methods of synthesis, properties and inclusions
 - how to identify them
- Gemstones covered in detail include
 - diamond, corundum (ruby and sapphire), beryl (including emerald and aquamarine), chrysoberyl (including alexandrite), tourmaline, garnets, spinel, jade, opal, topaz and other lesser known gems
- Imitations, treatments and enhancement

WHAT'S NOT COVERED IN THIS COURSE

- Grading and valuation of cut stones or rough
- Faceting and 'working' of rough
- Crystal and metaphysical healing

One of the GAA's focus is on the testing of gemstones in the lab. Class sizes are kept small to ensure that each student gets personalized attention to reach their full potential.