GAA

Gemmological Association of Australia

DIAMOND STUDIES

Practical Diamond Grading

Advanced Practical Diamond Grading

Diploma in Diamond Technology

ADELAIDE
BRISBANE
HOBART
MELBOURNE
PERTH
SYDNEY

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INTRODUCTION
DIAMOND

The evolution of a diamond to the ring on the finger and everything on the journey.

WHICH COURSES ARE ADDRESSED IN THIS BROCHURE?

- Practical Diamond Grading (PDG)
- Advanced Practical Diamond Grading (APDG)
- Diploma in Diamond Technology (DipDT) (includes both PDG and APDG)

WHAT IS THE GEMMOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (GAA)?

The GAA is an Australia-wide, not-for-profit Association that has been passionately educating the industry, gemstone enthusiasts and consumers about gemstones since 1945. Since its inception, the GAA has been Australia's leading gemmological educator.

WHAT IS GEM-ED AUSTRALIA?

Gem-Ed Australia is the educational arm within the GAA organisational structure and is responsible for providing support to the state teaching centres and ensuring quality of education and welfare for our students.

WHAT ARE THESE COURSES ABOUT?

The diamond courses offered by the GAA centre on the scientific study of diamonds and are internationally recognised as the Australian benchmark qualification in the identification and handling of diamonds.

> *"Behind every gemstone, there is a fascinating story waiting to delight clients around the world. Studying with GAA brings the expertise, networking and confidence to build a solid career in a multimillion-dollar industry.*
>
> **Gina Barreto FGAA, Dip Dt**
> Gemmologist and Diamond Technologist

01 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Practical Diamond Grading

Advanced Practical Diamond Grading

Diploma in Diamond Technology

Practical Diamond Grading

WHY WOULD I WANT TO DO PRACTICAL DIAMOND GRADING?

As an introduction to handling diamonds, this course will build on your knowledge of gemstones and, in particular, diamonds. Practical Diamond Grading (PDG) together with Advanced Practical Diamond Grading (APDG) are the practical components of the Diploma in Diamond Technology (DipDT).

This course offers 40 hours of hands-on experience with diamond specimens, with the time spread over weekends, evenings, or daytime study. Practical instruction is delivered by acknowledged diamond experts who will teach you the use of professional instruments in the laboratory.

The course is designed for people who work with diamonds in a professional environment, or those who simply have a passion and interest in diamonds. Class sizes are kept small to ensure quality training.

WHAT SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE WILL YOU ACQUIRE IN PRACTICAL DIAMOND GRADING?

- Working with diamond specimens using professional tools, such as tweezers, hand lens and cleaning cloths.
- Learning how to set up and operate a microscope and other methods of diamond grading magnification.
- How to visually, without instrumentation, identify the differences between diamond, synthetic moissanite and cubic zirconia.
- Using weight estimation formulae and adjustment factors to calculate the weight of unset diamonds to within 1% of actual weight.
- Understanding the terminology and mechanics of colour grading to CIBJO and GIA standards and defining the conditions required for accurate colour grading.
- Plotting the internal and external characteristics of diamonds for clarity grading.
- Performing accurate clarity grading of round brilliant cut diamonds using accepted international grading scales.
- Making visual estimations of proportions of cut diamonds by locating indicators used in proportion estimation.

- Stating the make of diamonds with correct terminology.
- Learning how to accurately measure diamonds using a proportionscope.
- Reading and correctly interpreting a laboratory issued Diamond Grading Report from the major international and Australian laboratories.
- Understanding the basic theoretical and gaining practical experience of detection and identification of synthetic diamonds and diamond treatments; fracture filled diamonds, laser drilled diamonds and other treatments.

WHAT ARE THE PREREQUISITES FOR PRACTICAL DIAMOND GRADING?

You must be adept at handling gemstones and be able to confidently use a pair of diamond gem tweezers and a loupe. If you have no experience, you should enrol in our gemstone handling course (at extra charge).

HOW MUCH STUDY TIME WILL I NEED TO COMMIT?

The course is entirely practical and does not require formal study. However, in addition to the 40 hours of practical instruction, students are required to read sections of the supplied Diamond Grading Manual to familiarise themselves with the theoretical aspects of the practical work that will be carried out in the next class.

WHEN DOES THE COURSE START?

Each state's schedules vary and exact times and dates are available from the enrolment officer in each state and on the website. Level of interest may determine date(s).

WHAT IS THE COST?

Please check website for current costs:
www.gem.org.au/courses

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

This is a practical course lasting 40 hours. It can be studied in different formats: Intensive 5 days, or one weeknight for 15 weeks, or on Sunday for 5 weeks.

WHICH QUALIFICATION WILL I GAIN?

Upon successful completion of this course, which includes a practical exam and assignment, graduates receive the GAA Practical Diamond Grading certificate.

Photo Credit: De Beers Group

Advanced Practical Diamond Grading

WHY WOULD I WANT TO DO ADVANCED PRACTICAL DIAMOND GRADING?

This course builds on the knowledge and experience you've gained in Practical Diamond Grading and extends the principles learnt in assessing round brilliant cut diamonds to the fancy shapes.

It also extends your knowledge of diamonds by teaching you about what can be done with damaged diamonds and their salvage potential, how to approach and evaluate antique diamond cuts, grading colour of fancy coloured diamonds and how to recognise and identify the newest CVD and HPHT synthetic diamonds.

WHAT ARE THE TOPICS COVERED?

- The factors that affect the make of a diamond; understand the effect of varying crown and pavilion angles and the relationship between pavilion angle and depth.
- Practical experience in visually estimating crown angle, pavilion depth and table percentage; evaluating brilliance, dispersion and scintillation.
- Learn to use tools to assist in grading.
- Learn the theory behind recutting old cut and damaged diamonds and how to calculate new weight and factor for grade changes.
- Learn to assess the factors that affect make in fancy cut diamonds.
- Practical experience in colour grading and clarity of set diamonds; learn the precautions to be made when grading set stones.
- Name old cut diamonds and learn the features of each and how to estimate their weight.
- Perform colour grading of coloured diamonds.
- Parcel grading of melee and match for make.
- Learn to recognise the latest treatments, and the newest synthetic CVD and HPHT diamonds using the latest Type II diamond identifiers, Crossed Polarised Filters technique and also learn about the more sophisticated instruments that are used in the laboratory environment.

WHAT ARE THE PREREQUISITES FOR ADVANCED PRACTICAL DIAMOND GRADING?

The prerequisite is successful completion of Practical Diamond Grading.

Please note that Practical Diamond Grading and Advanced Practical Diamond Grading are required elements for the completion of the Diploma in Diamond Technology.

HOW MUCH STUDY TIME WILL I NEED TO COMMIT?

The course is self-paced and entirely practical and does not require formal study, however, set notes should be read prior to each class.

Students are supplied with a comprehensive manual which covers all the practical aspects covered in the classes and can be used as a future reference.

WHEN DOES THE COURSE START?

Each state's schedules vary and exact times and dates are available from the enrolment officer in each state and on the website. Level of interest may determine date(s).

WHAT IS THE COST?

Please check website for current costs:
www.gem.org.au/courses

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

This is a practical course taking 16 hours over 2 days or 7 nights.

WHICH QUALIFICATION WILL I GAIN?

Upon successful completion of this course, continuing assessment by facilitator as tasks are completed, graduates receive the GAA Advanced Practical Diamond Grading certificate.

Diploma in Diamond Technology

WHY WOULD I WANT TO DO DIPLOMA IN DIAMOND TECHNOLOGY?

Completion of the Diploma in Diamond Technology enables you to;

- become a qualified expert in diamonds.
- gain an in-depth understanding of diamonds, simulants and synthetics, treatments and diamond grading (covered in Practical Diamond Grading).
- trace the diamond's journey from its geological beginnings to its final use in jewellery or industry.
- answer tough questions and stay 'one step ahead' of the information and misinformation of perhaps the world's most popular gemstone.
- bring expertise and confidence to handling or selling diamonds.
- gain the post-nominal DipDT.

WHAT ARE THE TOPICS COVERED?

The theory component of this course will give you an in-depth understanding of the theory of diamonds, from their beginnings as carbon atoms in the earth's mantle to their final destination either as a cut stone or for use in industrial applications. The content covered includes:

- Geology, occurrence and distribution
- Mining, recovery, extraction and sorting
- Theory of colour, cut and clarity grading
- Practical diamond grading (round brilliant cut only)
- History of diamond cutting and cuts
- Types of inclusions
- Diamond manufacture
- Synthetic diamonds and treatments
- Identification of imitations
- Cutting centres of the world and production
- Diamonds in Australia
- Industrial diamonds
- Sales and marketing of rough and polished diamonds

The Practical Diamond Grading component of this course will teach you how to grade diamonds to international standards. Also refer to Practical Diamond Grading questions and answers for more information

WHAT ARE THE PREREQUISITES FOR PRACTICAL DIAMOND GRADING?

- Diploma in Gemmology is recommended but not a prerequisite for DipDT.
- Practical Diamond Grading: this is one of the two practical components of the course.
- Advanced Practical Diamond Grading: this is the other practical component of the course.
- If you have previously completed Practical Diamond Grading and Advanced Practical Diamond Grading, or just Practical Diamond Grading alone, you will be credited with their completion provided it is within three years of the date(s) of completion.
- If more than three years have elapsed, you will have to demonstrate current competence in the components of the course or re-enrol in Practical Diamond Grading and Advanced Practical Diamond Grading in order to satisfy the requirements of the Diploma in Diamond Technology course.
- In the event of equivalent practical diamond grading courses having been completed through overseas institutions, the BOS&E may, after consideration, deem a student competent in the practical component(s) of the course.

HOW MUCH STUDY TIME WILL I NEED TO COMMIT?

- Minimum of 3 hours private study time per week for approximately 24 weeks (varies according to state).
- Read ahead for all lectures.
- Attend 85% of classes.
- Complete assignments on time.
- Course is approximately 55 hours over 25 weeks and varies according to state.

WHEN DOES THE COURSE START?

Usually in May.

WHAT IS THE COST?

Please check website for current costs:
www.gem.org.au/courses

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

This is a theory course over 24 weeks; 55 hours over six months part time (usually evening classes).

Note that Practical Diamond Grading and Advanced Practical Diamond Grading form the practical component of the course and must also be completed satisfactorily to gain the DipDT qualification.

WHICH QUALIFICATION WILL I GAIN?

Upon successful completion of this course, graduates receive the Diploma in Diamond Technology.

WHO ARE THE TEACHERS?

Our teachers are are internationally recognised leaders in their field. They possess a wealth of knowledge and experience and keep up to date with continuing developments within the diamond industry.

> *"Behind every gemstone, there is a fascinating story waiting to delight clients around the world. Studying with GAA brings the expertise, networking and confidence to build a solid career in a multimillion-dollar industry.*
>
> **Gina Barreto FGAA, Dip Dt**
> Gemmologist and Diamond Technologist

WHO IS

KATRINA MARCHIONI

FGAA, FGA, DIPDT

Katrina has worked in the jewellery industry for more than forty years, and has been lecturing for over thirty years.

Her experience has enabled her to develop the Advanced Diamond Grading course and the popular and well regarded Retail Diamond Consultancy course. Katrina regularly attends numerous international conferences and seminars, keeping her knowledge and industry contacts at the leading edge. Among these is the Hearts on Fire University, where she attends lectures presented by world leaders in diverse fields from manufacturing to marketing, enabling her to bring back the knowledge gained to improve and develop our own courses.

Katrina has also been a guest of Argyle Diamonds and has received personal tours of the mine and their cutting and sorting facilities in Perth. She has toured the Antwerp diamond bourse and had the privilege of viewing the cutting processes for their diamonds.

Katrina is a former Federal president of the GAA, and a former State President of the GAA's Victorian division. She is passionate about sharing her knowledge and love of diamonds with her students.

Qualifications

- Cert IV in Training and Assessment
- Diploma in Gemmology (Australia)
- Diploma in Diamond Technology (Australia)
- Advanced Practical Diamond Grading
- Registered Valuer, National Council of Jewellery Valuers

Associations

- Gemmological Association of Australia (FGAA)
- Past President, Federal GAA
- Past President, GAA Victorian Division
- Current Director, GAA
- Gemmological Association of Great Britain (FGA)
- National Council of Jewellery Valuers (NCJV)
- Diamond Guild of Australia
- Board of Studies and Examination Registrar (Current)

WHO IS

BILL SECHOS

BSC, FGAA, DIPDT

CEO & Director GSL (Gem Studies Laboratory) Sydney Australia

Bill has been in the industry for almost forty years, initially in retail jewellery and for the last thirty years in the Gem Testing and Diamond Grading Laboratory (GSL).

Jewellery retailers, manufacturers, and wholesalers all use the services provided by GSL, along with diamond and gemstone importers, Australian Customs, the NSW and Federal Police Forces, the Department of Public Prosecutions, antique dealers and Australia's foremost auction houses.

Bill learned diamond grading in 1979 while working in a diamond grading laboratory in London, before returning to Sydney to establish GSL in 1982.

Bill runs workshops in all levels of diamond grading and gemmology in Australia, New Zealand and other international venues.

Bill enjoys continuing professional development and has been to the Argyle mine in the Kimberley region of Western Australia to observe mining techniques; he has visited the HRD diamond grading laboratory in Antwerp to observe the grading procedures and techniques used and to compare these to the procedures employed at the GSL laboratory.

Qualifications

- Bachelor of Science (Sydney)
- Diploma in Education
- Cert IV in Training and Assessment
- Diploma of Gemmology (GAA)
- Diploma in Diamond Technology (GAA)
- Diamond Grading Certificate (GIA)
- Coloured Stone Certificate (GIA)

Associations

GAA

- Past President and Chairman of Board of Studies and Examinations
- Gemmological Association of Australia (FGAA)
- Federal Registrar (Current)

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWELLERY VALUERS

- Past President and Board Member

DIAMOND GUILD OF AUSTRALIA

- Laboratory Member

WHO IS

SARAH CLAIRE EDWARDS

FGAA, DIPGEM (GEM), DIPGEM (VAL) FGA, GP

Registered Valuer 086, Jewellery Designer, Educator

Sarah Edwards is a JAA national award-winning designer, registered valuer, manufacturing jeweller, gemmologist, diamond and pearl grader.

Sarah has twenty years' experience in the industry with both national and international qualifications in diamonds and pearls.

Sarah is on the diamond committee for GAA and holds membership of many gemmological associations around the world. She is a long serving member of the National Council of Jewellery Valuers (NCJV), the Jewellers Association of Australia (JAA), a Fellow of the Gemmological Association of Australia (FGAA) and a Fellow of The Gemmological Association of Great Britain (FGA).

Sarah's multi-level skill set and knowledge within the industry has opened doors to diverse employment streams – from bench work, retailing, wholesaling, managing a diamond laboratory, head grader/ gemmologist, designing, merchandising, gem testing, valuing, teaching and training for retail stores, to exporting Australian rough gems. Sarah is currently running her own wide-ranging business.

In addition to her previous experiences and qualifications, Sarah studies and travels around the world for conferences, gem fairs and to dig and fossick for rough gem treasures. She is committed to being at the forefront of the industry and understanding the mine to market route and associated ethical responsibility. Sarah is passionate about her work and sharing her knowledge.

Qualifications

- GAA Accredited Diploma in Gemmology
- GAA Accredited Diploma in Valuations
- NCJV Jeweller and Gemstone Valuations
- GAA Advanced Instruments and Techniques
- GAA Jewellery Product Knowledge
- GAA Jewellery Sketching
- IGI Diploma Polish Diamond Grader
- HRD Diploma of Certified Diamond Grader
- HRD Diamond Treatments, Imitation and Synthetic Diamond
- HRD Fancy Coloured and Shaped Diamonds
- GAA Retail Diamond Consulting Course
- GAA Advanced Practical Diamond Grading
- GAA Practical Diamond Grading
- CGL Certified Advanced Diamond Grader
- GIA Graduate Pearls (GP)
- GIA Diamond Grading

02 SCHEDULE & PAYMENTS

GAA is always helpful in arranging payment plans for students.

DO ALL STATE DIVISIONS RUN TO THE SAME SCHEDULE?

Each state's schedules vary and exact times and dates are available from the enrolment officer and on the website.

CAN I PAY MY FEES BY INSTALMENTS?

Yes, for the theory component of Diploma in Diamond Technology. $1000 deposit, another instalment on 1st May and final instalment on 1st June.

DO I GET A DISCOUNT IF I AM A GAA MEMBER?

Yes, there are Member and Non-member prices for courses and many of the events run by the GAA.

CAN I GET VET FEE HELP OR GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE?

Students applying for the diamond courses are not eligible for VET fee help or government assistance.

WHAT EQUIPMENT SHOULD I BRING?

You will need to bring diamond tweezers, a gemstone cleaning cloth, hand lens (10x loupe), calculator and a Leveridge gauge or similar electronic gauge (if available).

Course notes and/or past participants' assignments will be provided to supplement your own notes taken in class.

03 ENROLLING & PREREQUISITES

Your success in the course may hinge on your proficiency in English and your manual dexterity. If you have any doubts, our Enrolment Officer is happy to discuss this with you.

WHEN CAN I ENROL?

Please contact the enrolment officer, as schedules may vary from state to state.

ONCE ENROLLED, CAN I DEFER?

It is possible to defer, but conditions apply. Please discuss this with the enrolment officer.

WHAT OTHER PREREQUISITES ARE THERE?

- Fluent English language skills and the ability to understand technical scientific terminology.
- Legible hand writing in English, especially for examinations.
- Basic computer skills including proficiency in MS Word as well as access to email and internet.
- Sufficient dexterity and eyesight for handling small stones and tools.

DO I NEED TO TAKE AN IELTS TEST BEFORE I ENROL?

Due to the technical and scientific nature of the course and the wide range of reference and general reading material only being available in English, it is necessary for you to have a sound knowledge of the English language and good numeracy skills. There is also a high level of discipline-specific scientific jargon that you will need to understand.

It is not just a case of being able to speak and write basic English. We do not have an IELTS entry level, but, as an indication, you would need to have a level of English that would be acceptable for entry to an Australian University science course (Level 6-7).

Assignments and examinations require comprehensive detailed analysis for their completion in a satisfactory manner.

WILL GAA HELP ME GET A STUDY VISA?

No, GAA is not able to assist in obtaining a study visa to Australia and intention to study with GAA is not an eligible criterion for granting of a study visa by the Australian government.

I HAVE COMPLETED A SIMILAR DIAMOND QUALIFICATION IN MY COUNTRY. IS IT RECOGNISED IN AUSTRALIA?

In the event of equivalent practical diamond grading courses having been completed through overseas institutions, the BOS&E may, after consideration, deem a student competent in the practical component(s) of the course.

The GAA does not automatically or formally accept qualifications from other gemmological training bodies for recognition of prior learning or other purposes.

Contact the enrolment officer in writing with any question regarding recognition of prior learning, including details of where, what and when you studied.

IS THERE AN AGE LIMIT FOR STUDENTS?

Minimum enrolment age is 18 years. There is no maximum age.

> *"Studying diamond technology through GAA has given me confidence when I buy or sell diamonds. My clients place value on my qualifications and as a result my sales have increased significantly.*
>
> **Chris Holdsworth**
> Holdsworth Bros Jewellers
> Melbourne, Vic

04 VOCATIONAL OUTCOMES & RECOGNITION

The GAA often offers short courses or workshops in subjects outside the curriculum of our diplomas, some of which have a practical component.

WILL I LEARN HOW TO VALUE DIAMONDS FOR INSURANCE OR MARKETING PURPOSES?

Techniques of gemstone identification are a necessary skill to have as a valuer. The diamond courses do not specifically teach how to value gems or jewellery. For more information on becoming a Registered Valuer, please contact the National Council of Jewellery Valuers at www.ncjv.com.au

WHAT ARE MY CAREER PROSPECTS AFTER COMPLETION OF THESE COURSES?

The courses offered by GAA will give you skills to enhance your employment and/or promotion opportunities, your workplace performance and help in your career development.

Our graduates work in diamond grading, retail and wholesale, mining, trading, design and manufacture, education, lapidary and faceting, in laboratories and valuations, research and science, prospecting and fossicking and, of course, auctions. Our courses will enhance your knowledge of diamonds and add depth to your passion.

WILL I LEARN FACETING OR HOW TO MAKE DIAMOND JEWELLERY IN THESE COURSES?

We currently do not offer any courses which will provide you with the skills to become a qualified manufacturing jeweller – in Australia these skills are normally developed through the apprenticeship scheme or in association with other teaching organisations. Likewise, stone faceting is not a topic taught by the GAA.

Many GAA students study jewellery making or faceting with other organisations, and the many GAA members who possess these skills are also happy to support or guide students in these study areas.

WILL THE GAA HELP ME GET A JOB?

While GAA does not offer a careers placement service, the knowledge and industry contacts you will make during the course may help you in your future career prospects. Organisations occasionally advertise vacancies on the GAA noticeboards and website as they are confident in the knowledge and expertise of GAA graduates; they regularly recruit staff with the assistance of GAA networks and communication forums.

05

GAA DIVISION LOCATIONS

With the GAA having Divisions in every state in Australia it means that our graduates become part of a local gemmological community – of benefit for networking and ongoing training.

GAA DIVISION LOCATIONS IN EACH STATE

QUEENSLAND

Suite 1A, 443 Ipswich Road,
Annerley QLD 4103

0448 325 314
qld@gem.org.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Suite 421, 4th Floor, Edments Building,
38 Gawler Place, Adelaide SA 5000

(08) 8227 1377
sa@gem.org.au

NEW SOUTH WALES

128 Terry Street,
Rozelle NSW 2039

(02) 9264 5023
nsw@gem.org.au

TASMANIA

The Old Warden's Lodge, University of Tasmania
French Street, Dynnyrne, Hobart TAS 7005

0438 677 619
tas@gem.org.au

VICTORIA

380-382 Spencer Street,

West Melbourne VIC 3003

(03) 9326 6160
vic@gem.org.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Unit 14/136 Railway Street,
Cottesloe WA 6011

(08) 9385 5489
wa@gem.org.au

ENROL NOW!

To enrol or for further information,
please call the Enrolment Officer on
1300 436 338 or email **learn@gem.org.au**

www.gem.org.au

Passionately educating
the industry, gem enthusiasts
and consumers about gemstones

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