

# Gemmology Diploma

Our Gemmology Diploma is the most prestigious gemmological qualification in the gem and jewellery trade. You will look at a wider range of gems, synthetics and treatments, and will build upon the practical and theoretical knowledge learned during your Gemmology Foundation course, leading to a more in-depth understanding of gemmology and the principles of gem testing and enhanced gem identification skills.

Angular colour zoning in sapphire. Photo Pat Daly.

## Career options

Our graduates go on to successful careers in a number of areas in the trade, such as buying, selling, auctioning or valuing gems and jewellery.

Gemmology Diploma graduates must apply for Membership of Gem-A in order to continue to use the letters FGA after their name — a sign of excellence in the trade.

## Further study

- **Diamond Diploma**, leading to eligibility for DGA Membership status
- **BSc in Gemmology & Jewellery Studies** (requires successful completion of Gemmology Foundation, Gemmology Diploma and Diamond Diploma)
- **FEEG Diploma**

Graduates of the Gemmology Diploma can apply for Fellowship of Gem-A, allowing them to use the letters FGA after their name. FGA Membership status conveys a student's knowledge, integrity, membership of a professional body and commitment to professional development, and is highly valued within the trade.

## At a glance

### Course level

Ofqual level 6

### Study options

On-site • ODL • ATC

### Qualification

Gem-A Level 6 Diploma in Gemmology

*(Graduates become eligible to apply for Fellowship of Gem-A, allowing them to use FGA status)*

### Entry requirements

- Successful completion of Gem-A's Gemmology Foundation course.
- English qualification, e.g. IELTS Academic (Level 7) or TOEFL (score of 95-120).\*

*\*Applies to on-site and ODL study. Only required if English is not your first language.*

### Assessment

#### Theory component:

- **Assessed coursework**  
Four online assessments plus a written project.
- **Examinations**  
Two examination papers combining theory and practical, plus one practical exam.

#### Practical component:

- **Practical endorsement**  
For on-site/ATC students this will be covered as part of your course tuition. For ODL students this can be completed by attending a Diploma lab class — completion essential.

## Course content

Building on from the knowledge gained during the Gemmology Foundation, the Gemmology Diploma course covers:

- An in-depth look at treatments and synthetic materials, including their production, use, identification and the resulting implications for the gem trade.
- The ethical, environmental, and technological implications and applications of gemmology.
- How to select, organise and present relevant information using professional and technical vocabulary.
- How to interpret results from advanced gem-testing equipment.
- Confidence in applying scientific principles and concepts in solving problems relating to gemmology, and to assess the validity, reliability and credibility of scientific information related to gemmology.
- The ability to demonstrate a logical approach to gem testing, and the capability to acknowledge limitations and uses of certain tests.

## Course materials

The Diploma course materials build upon those received in the Foundation course. You will receive:

- Comprehensive Diploma course notes\*
- Practical handbook and workbook
- Fluorite and rutile crystal models
- Diploma stone set containing 20 rough and cut study specimens.

**ALL ODL STUDENTS ALSO RECEIVE A TRAVEL MICROSCOPE.**

*\* Chinese Traditional/Simplified, French and Japanese course notes are also available to purchase. Contact the Education department ([education@gem-a.com](mailto:education@gem-a.com)) for prices.*



## Gemmology Diploma lab class (ODL students only)

All ODL Gemmology Diploma students are required to attend a Diploma lab class – a gemmology practical endorsement – in order to complete the Gemmology Diploma. It is important that all students gain experience and guidance in the practical aspects of gem testing – this is vital to understanding the theory aspects of the Diploma course and is an integral component of studying gemmology. The Diploma lab class provides ODL students with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with a wide range of gem materials and gem testing techniques that will enable them to accurately test and identify gem materials.

The lab class consists of practical tuition over several days, with a practical examination on the final day of the class. Students can attend a lab class as part of the course in the UK (which will include an exam). Alternatively they may arrange practical sessions independently with a GAPP centre (these practical sessions will not include the exam; this will need to be arranged and sat separately during the January or June exam sessions, see page 20).

You will need to bring your portable instrument kit, your refractometer and light source, Diploma practical workbook and practical handbook.

The lab class will cover:

- Observation, including the use of the 10× loupe and the microscope.
- Effective and accurate use of the refractometer and how to interpret the results for a range of different materials.
- Use of specialist gemmological instruments including the spectroscope, polariscope, conoscope, dichroscope, colour filters and UV light to help determine the identity of gem materials as well as hydrostatic determination of specific gravity.
- How to handle and identify organic, inorganic, ornamental, rough, fashioned, mounted, natural, artificial and treated stones.
- How to demonstrate and determine a logical and efficient approach to gem testing by selecting appropriate techniques for the material under test.
- How to practise safe, skilful and professional testing techniques.
- How to record and communicate accurate and precise records for gem identification.