

GemBasics

GemBasics is a short, online, entry-level gem course designed to introduce you to the fascinating world of gemmology and the enormous variety of beautiful gems available. GemBasics will allow you to discover the basics of gemmology at your own pace. You will learn how gems can be distinguished from each other and will be introduced to the most useful items of portable gem testing equipment.

The course is perfect for anyone with an interest in gems and is suitable for those completely new to gemmology, such as new retail counter staff or gem enthusiasts.

Course content

This course consists of 12 online video lessons. During the course you will learn:

- Definitions of gems, their beauty, rarity and durability, and aspects of colour and light.
- How to use the 10× loupe, the Chelsea Colour Filter and the dichroscope.
- How to decipher hardness and toughness, cleavages and fractures, and dimensions and weight.
- Different types of cuts and facets with cabochons, beads and other forms.
- The geology of gems, where they're mined and ethics surrounding their extraction.
- How heat, irradiation, oil and resin treatments can alter gem appearance and properties.
- The different organic and synthetic gemstones.

At a glance

Course level

Ofqual level 2

Study options

Online only*

***Students must complete this course within one year.**

Qualification

Gem-A Level 2 Award in GemBasics

Entry requirements

None

Course length

12 online lessons

"GemBasics is a great opportunity to learn about gemstones without taking time away from work. I have learnt so much for my chosen career and passion, and would not hesitate in recommending these courses to anyone."

Joanne Wicker, former GemBasics student and Gemmology Foundation student

Course materials

Students receive:

- Fully illustrated GemBasics course notes
- Access to the online learning area, including 80 minutes of video
- Set of 15 study stones
- Portable GemKit, which includes 10× loupe, Chelsea Colour Filter, dichroscope, flexible flashlight, gem tweezers, gemholder and stone cloth.

Dates and prices

GemBasics

Course dates	Price
Anytime; there are no set course dates for GemBasics	£495 (plus postage)

“Studying online was perfect for me as I live in Zimbabwe. The study materials and online videos are very professional. GemBasics has really helped me launch my career... has boosted my confidence in dealing with gems and has increased my appreciation of natural gemstones.”

Michael Lewis, former GemBasics student

Oil in cavity inclusion in emerald. Photo Pat Daly.