

# N E T H E R L A N D S G E M L A B O R A T O R Y



## Gemmology Foundation

The Gemmology Foundation course is ideal for those keen to get the best start in their gemstone education. It is designed to support students with a step-by-step approach, with plenty of guidance and practical sessions. When you have completed the Foundation course you will be able to identify, test and handle a wide variety of gemstones.

### Why study the Gemmology Foundation?

In the Foundation course you will learn about handling commercially important gems, such as diamond, sapphire, ruby and emerald, as well as organics and a range of treated and imitation gem materials. The course covers the origins of crystals and gems, their fashioning and use in jewellery, the factors influencing their value and their durability (with a focus on care and caution), whilst introducing you to the use of basic gemmological tools.

At the end of the course you will be able to identify characteristic features of commercially important gems. Graduates may use the designation Cert. GA.

### Who is it suitable for?

It is suitable for those wishing to pursue their passion in gemstones. Whether you want to further your career or learn about gemstones as a hobby this course is for you. Studying the Foundation is essential for those wanting to go on to study our Gemmology Diploma.

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## Career prospects

Studying the Foundation will not only prepare you for studying the Gemmology Diploma, it will provide you with the crucial foundations of gemstone knowledge to assist you in your career.

## Course features

You will learn:

- what constitutes a gemstone, how to identify common gem materials confidently, and the properties and uses of certain gem materials
- to apply knowledge of gemstone properties to their proper care and commercial use
- to explain the value and price factors of gemstones
- to handle rough, cut and set gem materials
- how to use basic gemmological equipment and report accurately on the various observations and results of tests conducted on gemmological specimens
- the origin and formation of gemstones and the various stages of the gemstone pipeline
- how to compare and contrast features and properties of gem materials, treatments and synthetics to distinguish between gemstones.

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## Gemmology Diploma

The most prestigious international gemmological qualification in the gem and jewellery trade, Gem-A's Gemmology Diploma follows on from the Gemmology Foundation.

It supports students' learning, whilst encouraging interaction with the gem and jewellery trade. Upon completion of the Diploma course you will be confident at handling, testing and identifying a wide variety of gemstones.

### Why study the Gemmology Diploma?

The Gemmology Diploma builds upon the practical and theoretical knowledge learnt during your Gemmology Foundation course and enhances your skills, leading to a more in-depth understanding of gemmology and the principles of gem testing. A wider range of gems, synthetics and treatments are looked at in detail and gem identification skills are honed. Graduates are eligible for election to FGA Membership status.

### Who is it suitable for?

Our Diploma course is suitable for those wishing to further the skills and knowledge learnt in their Foundation and to deepen an understanding of gemstones. If you intend to pursue a career in buying, selling, auctioning or valuing gems or jewellery, then this is the course for you.

Students must have the Gemmology Foundation Certificate, or one of a select number of approved exemption qualifications in order to enrol. Further details can be obtained from the education office.

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## Career prospects

Studying the Gemmology Diploma is the ultimate kickstart to your career in gemmology.

You will gain a thorough understanding of gemstones and the gem industry and learn transferable key skills, such as how to record and present data accurately and how to evaluate and think critically about issues within the trade. You will also employ key skills such as problem-solving, communication and individual thinking.

Many of our graduates already have jobs within the gem and jewellery trade, whilst others aim to enter the trade directly, into retail, valuations, appraisals and buying and selling.

## Course features

Building upon your previous knowledge, you will:

- learn about a broader knowledge of treatments and synthetic materials, including their production, use, identification and the resulting implications for the gem trade
- consider the ethical, environmental and technological implications and applications of gemmology
- learn to select, organize and present relevant information using professional and technical vocabulary
- learn to interpret results accurately from advanced gem testing equipment
- be confident 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
- learn to demonstrate a logical approach to gem testing, as well as be able to acknowledge limitations and uses of certain tests.