NAJ Educational Trust

Supporting Jewellery Education Since 1994

The NAJ Trust is committed to empowering aspiring professionals with the financial support they need to forge a fulfilling career in the jewellery industry

The Trust considers providing financial assistance to individuals whose employers are unwilling or unable to support their training, and can help with such courses as but not restricted to:

- JET 2 (Jewellery Education and Training) and occasionally JET 1
- JET FoAP (Foundations of Appraisal Practice)
- JET Business Development
- JET Management
- British Academy of Jewellery courses including jewellery making, CAD, stone setting, enamelling
- Gem-A Gemmology Diploma
- Gem-A Diamond Grading Course
- Gem-A Diamond Diploma
- GIA courses including diamond grading and coloured gemstone

If you wish to apply for assistance, go to https://www.naj.co.uk/Financial-support and download the NAJ Trust Application Form.

The Trust also considers providing assistance to employers for the purposes of training apprentices, in such skills as watch and clockmaking, gold and silversmithing, and hand engraving.
Employers should contact educationaltrust@naj.co.uk



The NAJ Educational Trust has always been approachable, welcoming and supportive since my first contact. The trustees have provided me with an invaluable and professional service through their bursary scheme. I was granted a bursary to support me through both the Gem-A London Gemmology and Diamond diploma courses through online distance learning.

The Gem-A Gemmology and Diamond diplomas are really interesting courses which covered every aspect of gemstones and diamonds. The courses involved studying whilst working full time within the trade, followed by a practical grading week and final exams. I was very proud to pass my final exams and I was also awarded a silver trophy for the highest scoring 2022 Gem-A gemmology student resident in Scotland (the photograph shows Andrew Fellows, a Gemmology and Diamond Lecturer at Birmingham City University presenting the trophy to me). My studies to date have helped me both personally and professionally, providing me with the confidence to progress in my chosen career path.

To anyone looking to pursue a career or simply looking to expand their interest and knowledge within the jewellery trade I would recommend contacting the NAJ Educational Trust to benefit from their support. Without the support of the Educational Trust bursaries I wouldn't have been able to complete my studies.

Caitlin Little
Little the Jewellers, Elgin
Gem-A Gemmology Diploma and Diamond Diploma student



The course is helping me a great deal. Although I have been in the industry for around 10 years. the JET course is teaching me how much more there is to learn. My boss has said he has seen a difference in my knowledge which is a good thing.

I am not a very academic person and very much a practical person but this course has kept me engaged throughout with all the different topics and the learning that it has provided.

I hope to do another course once this one is finished. Please find attached a photograph of me at work with a set of customers who bought their engagement ring from me.

Wayne Odam
Bournemouth Jewellers, Bournemouth
Jewellery Education and Training student – JET2 (Diploma)



I work in the valuations department and gemmological laboratory at Birmingham Assay Office. Day to day I enjoy valuing all kinds of jewellery items and watches, and learning about the fascinating world of antiques. Practising gemmology and advanced testing in the lab helps me become a more confident and rounded valuer.

I first heard about the Trust from friends and connections in my professional network, who recommended the course and encouraged me to apply. After researching the pathway to becoming a valuer, I decided to get in touch with the Trust and was fortunate enough to be awarded.

The award has helped me pursue a career as a valuer, after I decided to make the transition from sales last year. The financial support removed a potential barrier for me, and now that I'm enroute to becoming a Member of the NAJ's Institute of Registered Valuers, it helped me secure my current job.

Currently I am approaching halfway through FoAP. It has been great becoming acquainted with other students during the online tutorials, which are also opportunities to ask questions and have some interaction with a tutor. I am looking forward to the practical element later on, to implement everything I have learnt.

If you are interested in becoming a valuer, I highly recommend looking into how the Trust could help. The application process is straightforward and gives you a chance to show your ambition and talent! I'd be happy to share my experience and advice with prospective applicants - please reach out to the NAJ who can put us in touch.

Above is a photo taken at my workplace on the Assay Office's 250th birthday in 2023. In front of me is the very first hallmarking register, the first page written on 31st August 1773.

Zoe Law
Assay Office, Birmingham
JET Foundations of Appraisal Practice