

## **AGA RESEARCH GRANT FOR 2019**

**The Accredited Gemologists Association (AGA) is offering a research grant to support research on gemological issues relevant to the trade.**

### **About AGA and Its Mission**

Established in 1974, the Accredited Gemologists Association is an independent and nonprofit organization dedicated to:

- Gemological Education & Research
- Identification & Evaluation of Gem Materials
- Development of Professional Standards of Analysis, Practice & Ethics

The AGA proudly counts among its members some of the world's leading independent gemologists. AGA believes in excellence and is dedicated to establishing the highest professional standards of practice. AGA is formed to promote education, scientific research, identification, and quality evaluations in gemology. We are an organization of all beliefs and cultures and share a common bond of the love of gemstones. The AGA will not discriminate against any applicants based upon race, creed, color, national origin, age, or gender.

### **About the Research Grant**

- AGA defines a research grant as a payment made to support a scientific gemological research project.
- The award will be up to \$10,000 for a one year project. The type and amount of research grants awarded are determined by the AGA Educational Scholarship and Research Grant Committee (ESRGC) as authorized by the AGA Board. Decisions of the AGA are final.
- All proposed expenses must be shown in a detailed budget.
- The research grant is open to anyone except ESRGC members, AGA board members, and their family members.

### **Eligibility**

Evaluation criteria will include importance of the proposed scientific gemological research, strength of methodology, relevant research and experience of the applicant.

- Proposed research subject must be in or directly related to gemology.
- An applicant should have a degree in science and/or extensive experience in a related gemological field and present the proof of their qualifications.
- Applicants must have established a relationship with a gem research lab or a scientific institute in order to accomplish the proposed project. The institute which the applicant proposed is to provide a detailed acceptance letter of the project and the potential outcome of the research during application.
- Applicants must provide a detailed project plan, estimated timing, detailed budgeting and potential publication of the results.
- In case of international applicants from non-English speaking countries, individuals are required to demonstrate English proficiency.

### **Requirements for Proposal Submission**

- Proposal submission & related reporting must be in English.
- Proposal Narrative. This should be a paragraph of 200- 250 words briefing the project.
- Basis of the research project and benefits to the field of gemology should be explained in a short text of 300 to 400 words.
- Methodology of the project should be explained in a clear and well thought out model with analysis and variables in a text of 300 to 400 words, preferably with supporting references.
- Intended audience and benefits of the project should be defined within the proposal.

## **Applicant Requirements**

The recipient of the award will be expected to present his/her research and conclusions at a future AGA Conference and to submit a paper for publication in a peer reviewed, scientific periodical, preferably in gemology.

## **Reporting Requirements**

The recipient is required to submit a brief progress report quarterly through the grant period or as outlined in the approved proposal. A final report must be submitted at the end of the grant period. The final report must be an article based on the proposed research in the format for peer review submission to a scientific journal for publication. The results will be presented at an AGA Conference.

## **2018 Application Deadline and Submission**

Submit a complete detailed proposal, meeting all of the requirements stipulated above, via email or regular post, by the deadline.

Applicants must provide three reference letters from research professionals, preferably in the field of gemology, by the deadline.

Confirmation of proposal receipt will be sent out via e-mail. If you do not receive an e-mail within the 14 business days of your submission, please contact Jan Giamanco at [jan@accreditedgemologists.org](mailto:jan@accreditedgemologists.org)

Applications & references will be accepted from November 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019. Applications must be postmarked no later than February 28, 2019.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to complete and submit the proposal by the deadline to be considered for a research grant. By submitting an application there is no guarantee that funds will be awarded. Awarding a grant is at the sole discretion of AGA Board.

## **Awarding Process**

The ESRGC will review all the applications as a first step. Qualifying candidates will be contacted via telephone or an e-mail.

- Qualifying candidates will be interviewed via phone or video conferencing.
- AGA will contact the recipient of the research grant by April 2019.
- The recipient will be announced by May 1, 2019 and subsequently posted on the AGA Website.