



SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN
GENEALOGISTS

Family History Education, Courses & Events

Family History Month 2021



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SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN
GENEALOGISTS

Family History Fundamentals

Learn online with your community of Family Historians

Course Structure

Part 1: Getting Started

Saturday 16 October 1.30pm-3.30pm AEDT

The first of the three-part session primarily uncovers the principles of family history research, with a particular emphasis on understanding the diversity between types of sources. The session will demonstrate numerous forms of charting and the necessary information required for each. It will then demonstrate search techniques, including reference to diverse repositories and instruction on how to best utilise them your research. To end, the session will discuss the importance of appropriate research planning as well as methods to achieve success.

Part 2: Analysing the evidence

Saturday 27 November 1.30pm-3.30pm AEDT

Part two will enhance the theoretical grounding gathered from part one as it focuses on the practical aspects of genealogy. A detailed breakdown of source analysis will demonstrate how to recognise errors and overcome research challenges, ensuring that the sources help your research to its full potential. The session will also cover handwriting analysis and increase your problem-solving capabilities.

Part 3: Documenting and presenting

Saturday 11 December 1.30pm-3.30pm AEDT

Part three is focussed on how to share your discoveries with other researchers, including: charts, software, reports, books and online, allowing you to choose a method that best suits you. This session differentiates between documentation and presentation, and what is required in the correct execution of both. An important final step is how to ensure your citation process is as easy as can be.

Cost for full session

Non-Member \$90.00

Member/Discount offer \$60.00

In addition to the Family History Fundamentals course, the Society also offers further learning opportunities, including a Certificate in Genealogical Research, as well as a Diploma in Family Historical Studies. The Certificate is designed to assist members with furthering their research, analysis and writing skills and is used as a pre-requisite for the Diploma course.

Registration <https://www.sag.org.au/event-4309754>

Email info@sag.org.au

Telephone 02 9247 3953

Certificate in Genealogical Research

The Certificate course was first offered in 2010 and was introduced by the SAG to encourage its members to extend their genealogical research beyond their own immediate family lines and to help them improve their analysis, research and writing skills.

The Certificate is designed for researchers who already have more than three years family history research experience and who have gained at least some elementary research skills and a broad, even if basic, knowledge of resources available to the researcher. To complete the course work you are expected to extend your research beyond what can be found on the internet and to use local libraries and family history society collections, either in-person or remotely where possible.

The course consists of 8 assignments undertaken over 18 months. For each assignment you will be given the outline of what is required, together with some guidance to consider in preparing your submission. The assignments have been carefully selected to reflect the sorts of skills needed by genealogists and the course is essentially practical exercises in self-directed learning from experience.

Applications

Applications for 2022 cohorts will open in October 2021. All candidates must remain financial members of the SAG for the duration of the course.

Receipt and submission of course work

Coursework will be sent and returned by email and you will have approximately 6-8 weeks to complete each component (which will be sent to you progressively). Online briefings on assessments will be provided when appropriate. Each exercise will be given a rating and all eight components must be attempted. For each completed assignment you will receive back a consolidated set of comments covering all submission received, together with your own specific grade. Candidates who complete all eight components and achieve a pass mark of 60% or more will be issued with a Certificate. Those who achieve a credit pass of 75% or more will also be eligible to apply for admission to the Diploma in Family Historical Studies course.

What are the costs?

There is a once-off non-refundable fee of \$550 (including GST). It is up to candidates to determine what additional costs they may incur in completing any of the eight components.

Do I have to live in Sydney?

No – the Certificate can be undertaken from anywhere in the world. There will be no necessity to visit Sydney or to use the facilities at the SAG; however candidates should be aware of local support resources such as access to a good local family history collection or public library as they may be beneficial. Good internet access will be essential.

Coursework

The following is an example of the type of exercises you might expect to receive during the course – they may not be conducted in this order and some components may not be included in the final assessments.

Sample course work:

Component	Weighting
Exercise 1 – Short research guide – a 1500 word guide on a specific research topic.	15
Exercise 2 – Preparation of a research plan – candidates will be given a genealogical question and asked to prepare a research plan demonstrating the methods and sources you would use to answer that question	10
Exercise 3 – Charting exercise. You will be given a one page family history and asked to produce a family tree chart from it. This cannot be produced in genealogical software.	10
Exercise 4 – DNA testing. You will be asked to make recommendations on how a family should proceed with DNA testing.	15
Exercise 5 – Analysis of census records – candidates will be given a series of census entries and asked to analyse them and to identify further areas of research arising from them.	15
Exercise 6 – Short biography – candidates will be asked to prepare a short biography (750 word max) based on the format used in the <i>Australian Dictionary of Biography</i> .	15
Exercise 7 – Palaeography (handwriting) Exercise – Candidates will be asked to interpret hand-written documents and to provide a transcript of these.	10
Exercise 8 – Examination of approximately 2 hours duration – this will be undertaken via the internet and may include both multi-choice and short-answer questions.	10
	100 Total

Further information

The Certificate in Genealogical Research regulations are currently being revised and must be read in conjunction with this leaflet prior to applying from October. For further enquiries please email us at admin@sag.org.au or contact the SAG office on +61 (2) 9247 3953.

How to Apply

The online application will be available in October 2021.



Diploma in Family Historical Studies

Once a member has completed the Certificate in Genealogical Research they may like to take their studies further by enrolling in our Diploma in Family Historical Studies. The Diploma has been running since 1974 and enrolment is open to any member who completes the Certificate course at a credit level of 75% or higher. Requirements for the Diploma are the completion of a thesis (20,000 words) and a written examination. Candidates are required to submit for the approval of the Diploma and Certificate Committee, a proposed topic for a thesis. The topic for the thesis shall be either:

- i. a family history and shall trace at least three successive generations of the nominated family, or
- ii. be on a subject relevant to genealogical research.

Candidates form part of a yearly cohort who meet regularly to discuss issues of thesis development and hear updates on progress from the group. All candidates are assigned a Supervisor.

Supervisors

The role of the Supervisor is set out fully in the Diploma Guide, and in summary is “to provide general guidance throughout the period of the candidature, to assist the candidate in the final preparation of written work and to ensure that it meets the requirements of this Guide, the current Diploma regulations and the Chicago style of referencing”. Candidates are charged with initiating contact with their Supervisor.

Applications

Applications for the 2022 cohort will open in early 2022. All candidates must remain financial members of the SAG throughout their candidature.

What are the costs?

There is a once-off non-refundable fee of \$880 (including GST). It is up to candidates to determine what additional costs they may incur in completing the Diploma.

Timetable of activities

The below is an indication of the key milestones for the Diploma:

Year 1	Year 2
(Cohort & Supervisor meetings scheduled)	(Cohort & Supervisor meetings scheduled)
March: Confirmation emails & invoicing	1 May: Deadline for 'final' draft to Supervisor
Mid-late March: Cohort induction	30 June: Thesis deadline
1 May: Deadline Chapter 1/outline to Supervisor	Early November: Examination (with invigilation)
30 Oct: Revision to synopsis if required	Mid-December: Result

Do I have to live in Sydney?

No – the Diploma can be undertaken from anywhere in the world. There will be no necessity to visit Sydney or to use the facilities at the SAG; however candidates should be aware of local support resources such as access to a good local family history collection or public library as they may be beneficial. Good internet access will be essential.

Further information:

The Diploma in Family Historical Studies regulations must be read in conjunction with this leaflet prior to applying - they are available at: <https://www.sag.org.au/Study-Online-With-Us>. For further enquiries please email us at admin@sag.org.au or contact the SAG office on +61 (2) 9247 3953.

How to Apply

The online application form will be available in early 2022.

SAG's DNA learning opportunities

WEBINAR: Beginners Introduction to DNA

When: 23 Oct 2021
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Location: Your place
Spaces left: 500

REGISTRATION
• Member - \$12.00
• Non-member - \$17.00

[REGISTER](#)

 Receiving your test results is an exciting time but it can quickly become confusing. This session will look at the different types of tests available, which one is right for you and which companies do these tests. We will look at some basics to help you understand and interpret your matches and there will be plenty of time for questions so you can start finding those new cousins!

This is an online session using the ZOOM platform.

It will NOT be recorded due to privacy reasons, so you should only book if you can attend live.

Skill level: Beginners Presenter: Melissa Hulbert

Note: Members need to be logged in to the site to make an event booking.

Analysing Your Ancestry DNA Results

Start: 12 May 2021 (UTC+10:00)
End: 19 Aug 2021 (UTC+10:00)
Schedule: 16 sessions
Location: Your Place!
Spaces left: 0

[JOIN WAITLIST](#)

 **Need help with starting to solve your DNA dilemma's? Have you tested with Ancestry DNA and want to understand how to work with your results?**

Join Christine Woodlands and other members of the SAG DNA Discussion Group for a 16 week course designed to assist you to understand the information you can glean from your Ancestry DNA matches.

The course will be made up of four modules and consist of a mixture of presentations, live demonstrations, case studies and discussion groups.

[» Show details](#)

GROUP: DNA Research Group - Tools in Practice

When: 21 Aug 2021
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM (UTC+10:00)
Location: Your place
Spaces left: 496

[REGISTER](#)

 **Topic: Many Marvellous Matches - How to make the most of your matches**

SAG is home to a vibrant community of researchers who are using DNA analysis to further their family history research. If you have test results to work with, understand the basics of genetic genealogy and now want to learn how to use various websites and tools to take things to the next level come along to the DNA Research Group - Tools in Practice to see what can be achieved.

This meeting will include a presentation and plenty of time for Q&A and group discussion.

This is an online session. It will NOT be recorded due to privacy reasons, so you should only book if you can...

[» Show details](#)

GROUP: Analysing your AncestryDNA Course Alumni Meetings

Start: 5 Aug 2021 (UTC+10:00)
End: 2 Jun 2022 (UTC+10:00)
Schedule: 6 sessions
Location: Your place!
Spaces left: 16

[REGISTER](#)

 **Ongoing forum for SAG members who have attended the Analysing Your AncestryDNA Course.**

A series of meetings have been planned for participants of the Summer 2021 program who are interested in continuing to work with each other on developing their skill in "starting to solve their DNA dilemmas".

FOCUS OF SESSIONS: Changes to the AncestryDNA platform and participants sharing case studies with and without brick walls!

[» Show details](#)

GROUP: DNA Research Group

When: 21 Aug 2021
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM (UTC+10:00)
Location: Your place
Spaces left: 497

[REGISTER](#)

 **Discussion Topic: TBA**

SAG is home to a group of enthusiastic and knowledgeable genetic genealogists. The DNA Research Group is a Forum for those who are highly experienced in using DNA research techniques and would like to explore this exciting aspect of genealogy further with a group of likeminded people.

Please note: The topics and tools discussed at this group are pitched at an advanced level and the Research Group meetings are not recommended for those just beginning their DNA journey.

[» Show details](#)

WEBINAR: Analysing your DNA results using Chromosome Analysis - FULL SERIES

Start: 25 Aug 2021 (UTC+10:00)
End: 24 Nov 2021 (UTC+11:00)
Schedule: 4 sessions
Location: Your place!
Spaces left: 388

[REGISTER](#)

 Are you ready to start solving your DNA dilemmas with chromosome analysis? Do you have your DNA data at a site with a chromosome browser and want to understand how to work with your results?

Veronica Williams is offering a 4 webinar series designed to assist you to understand how to work with chromosome information. The webinars can be viewed individually but are best viewed as a series. Later webinars will build on concepts discussed in earlier sessions.

Further details can be found by [clicking here](#).

[» Show details](#)