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معهد البحرين للؤلؤ والأحجار الكريمة
BAHRAIN INSTITUTE FOR PEARLS & GEMSTONES

Pearl Principles Course

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Pearl Principles Course

The Pearl Principles Course provides individuals with a uniquely condensed introduction to pearls. Attendees will gain considerable insight into the natural and cultured pearls as well as a basic introduction to the instrumentation needed for their identification. Attendees who decide to learn more about pearls and their identification methods, may enrol on Danat's "International Pearl Course", which is a five-day course that offers a holistic approach to pearl studies, including hands-on practice using basic and scientific gemmological tools.

Course Structure

The course provides an introduction to pearls that begins with an overview of the classification of molluscs and the formation of natural pearls. Attendees will also learn about the history of pearls, focusing on Bahrain's natural pearling heritage and other historically significant natural pearl producers alongside the modern-day dominance of cultured pearls. Attendees will be introduced to the various treatments available to enhance the beauty of natural and cultured pearls as well as the different laboratory equipment used for pearl identification such as basic gemmological tools, X-ray imaging and chemical analysis. The course also provides information about pearl care and cleaning methods.

Lesson Plan

- The classification of molluscs. Natural freshwater and saltwater pearls
- formation. Nacreous vs non-nacreous pearls and the main pearl producing
- species. Bahrain's natural pearling heritage and other historical locations of
- natural pearls
- Cultured freshwater and saltwater pearls: cultivation techniques and the main species used.
- Treatments of pearls. Classification of natural pearls and grading of cultured pearls.
- Understanding of the various laboratory equipment used to identify pearls
- such as basic gemmological tools (e.g., microscope and UV lamps), X-ray imaging (e.g., X-ray microradiography and X-ray micro-CT) and chemical analysis (EDXRF).
- Pearl care and cleaning methods.