



SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN

**GENEALOGISTS**

Diploma in Family  
Historical Studies

Once a member has completed the Certificate in Genealogical Research, they have the option 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. Cohort meetings will be held approximately once a month initially, and will be based on issues raised by candidates. All candidates are assigned a Supervisor.

### Supervisors

The role of the Supervisor is set out 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 are taken annually at this time with a deadline of 28 February. 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 \$975 (including GST) for the 2024 intake. It is up to candidates to determine what additional costs they may incur in completing the Diploma. (see below)

### Timetable of activities

Below is an indication of the key milestones for the Diploma. Some of these deadlines may be indicative. Candidates should discuss deadlines with their Supervisor.

Year 1	Year 2
(Cohort & Supervisor meetings scheduled)	(Cohort & Supervisor meetings scheduled)
March: Confirmation emails & invoicing	30 April: Deadline for ‘final’ draft to Supervisor
Early April: Cohort induction	30 June: Thesis deadline (soft copy)
15 May: Deadline first draft to Supervisor	8 November: Examination (with invigilation)
31 October: Update on synopsis	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/StudyOnlineWithUs>. For further enquiries please email us at [admin@sag.org.au](mailto:admin@sag.org.au) or contact the SAG office on +61 (2) 9247 3953.

## How to Apply

The online application form is available at: <https://www.sag.org.au/StudyOnlineWithUs>

## Support crafting your Synopsis

The synopsis should be a summary of content that the thesis will cover, key themes and research questions to be answered.

The synopsis is to guide the thesis and can be amended as the research/writing progresses.

Indicate the extent of background research already completed. This might include, for instance, obtaining key records associated with family members, available source materials, and copies of images or maps obtained.

Indicate the research you need to still do to provide an appropriate amount of material to support the writing of the thesis in the form of a research plan.

You will need to provide an update on your synopsis around 31 October. This is an opportunity to review your original synopsis and assess changes that need to be made to its aim or scope based on your research and writing thus far.

### Prompt questions to support developing the synopsis:

- What happened?
- What are the particular features of your family's experiences or the topic presented?
- How/Why are they interesting or relevant to you/family members/family historians?
- Are you able to compile a detailed family tree or are there significant gaps?
- What don't you know that you would like to find out and how could you explore this line of inquiry?
- Do you have current information/data to analyse?
- Do you have access to information to provide the historical context? (What is it?)
- What sort of legacy does this all leave?
- Why is that important? Why should we care? (Motivation for researching and writing)

## Additional costs

Prospective Diploma candidates may want to consider potential costs for their research, depending on the information that they have already obtained or wish to in support of their thesis. This may include research trips where possible or document/book costs from institutional repositories or subscription sites. Candidates should also confirm availability of resources at both their local, State/National, and the Society's Library.