CRISTÓBAL BALENCIAGA MUSEOA

Haute Couture Techniques Course Programme

2027

Introduction

The conservation, research and dissemination of the heritage associated with Cristóbal Balenciaga constitute one of the cornerstones of the Cristóbal Balenciaga Museum's mission. In this context, the Museum has for several years been exploring various ways to document, preserve and pass on the knowledge and technical procedures associated with the couturier's work. To this end, it promotes a training programme aimed at highlighting the intangible dimension of Cristóbal Balenciaga's craftsmanship whilst facilitating the transmission of this legacy to new generations of fashion professionals.

The programme combines intensive, highly practical training courses, held at the Museum's facilities and designed to offer participants an immersion in Balenciaga's technical and creative universe, with online training formats that broaden access to this knowledge through digital tools.

Thematic Pathways

The programme is structured around three thematic pathways: tailoring, dressmaking and embroidery, each bringing together a range of courses and specialisation opportunities. Taken together, the programme offers different levels of specialisation and an estimated time commitment of 250 hours, enabling participants to acquire and develop a range of technical skills related to haute couture.

Tailoring	Levels: beginner, intermediate and advanced
	A range of techniques focused on the craftsmanship involved in the making of daywear, primarily tailored jackets. Particular attention is paid to working with wool fabrics and to the various processes involved in constructing lapels, collars, buttonholes, pockets and sleeves.
Dressmaking	Levels: beginner, intermediate and advanced
	A range of techniques for making daywear, cocktail dresses and bridalwear. Particular emphasis is placed on working with materials such as silk, taffeta and lace; on the construction of internal structures, such as corsets; and on the use of technical and decorative techniques, including gathering, organza work, wadding and different types of fastenings.
Embroidery	Levels: beginner and intermediate.
	Training in specialised haute couture hand-embroidery techniques using the Lunéville method, enabling participants to explore different embellishment techniques and the application of materials to fabrics.

Course Calendar and Application Periods

Tailoring

	Dates	Registration	Duration	Format	Price
Level 1. Beginner	10 September 12 September	01 June 15 June	20 hours	On-Site	290€
Level 2A. Intermediate	11 January 31 January	16 Nov 2026 30 Nov 2026	25 hours	Online	340€
Level 2B. Intermediate	01 February 21 February	16 Nov 2026 30 Nov 2026	25 hours	Online	340€
Level 3. Advanced	28 June 02 July	05 April 23 April	35 hours	On-Site	475€

Dressmaking

	Dates	Registration	Duration	Format	Price
Level 1. Beginner	01 October 03 October	16 June 30 June	20 hours	On-Site	290€
Level 2. Intermediate	01 March 21 March	15 January 31 January	25 hours	Online	340€
Level 3. Advanced	05 July 09 July	12 April 30 April	35 hours	On-Site	475€

Embroidery

	Dates	Registration	Duration	Format	Price
Level 1. Beginner	06 May 09 May	01 February 15 February	28 hours	On-Site	415€
Level 2. Intermediate	11 May 14 May	01 February 15 February	28 hours	On-Site	415€

The Museum reserves the right to change the above course dates or to partially or completely cancel the programme for reasons of force majeure.

Additional Information

Course Application Process and Admission Criteria

Each course has its own application round and period, the publication date of which is specified in the calendar. Applicants should check the specific conditions for each application round, as well as the deadlines and requirements for submitting an application.

As a general rule, all courses require prior knowledge and experience in the relevant field, with the sole exception of Embroidery Beginner Level, which is designed as an introductory course and requires no previous knowledge or experience.

Applicants must submit the following documentation:

— Curriculum vitae, detailing their educational background and any training and professional experience relevant to the specialisation.
— A brief letter of motivation, outlining their interest in participating in the course and their learning objectives.

Places will be allocated on the basis of the documentation submitted and an assessment of applicants' profiles, taking into account their educational background, experience and suitability in relation to the objectives and content of each course.

A Tailored Learning Pathway

The courses offered within the tailoring and dressmaking pathways are designed as complementary training opportunities rather than as a sequential programme that must be followed in a prescribed order. Therefore, completing the introductory course is not a prerequisite for enrolling on intermediate or advanced courses, provided applicants have the prior knowledge and experience required for each individual course.

The main difference between the courses lies in their duration, which ranges from 20 to 35 hours, and, consequently, in the level of complexity and technical development of the project to be undertaken during the training.

This flexible structure allows each participant to design and organise their own tailored learning pathway, selecting the courses that best match their background, existing knowledge, interests and specialisation goals. In this way, each course offers an opportunity to explore specific techniques and procedures in greater depth, gradually building an individual learning pathway.

Languages	As a general rule, the programme's courses are taught in Spanish, although some exceptions apply depending on the format and specialism. Online courses can also be undertaken in English, facilitating participation by international students. To support this, the audiovisual materials used as references for the course content are available in both languages, and one of the online tutorial groups is conducted in English. Face-to-face tailoring and dressmaking courses are also accessible to non-Spanish-speaking participants, as the instructor can provide explanations and technical guidance in English throughout the sessions. Embroidery courses, meanwhile, are offered in both Spanish and English, allowing participants to follow the training and receive guidance in either language.
Teachers	A regular collaborator of the Museum, Javier Martín teaches the tailoring and dressmaking courses. He graduated at the Polytechnic University of Madrid as an Advanced Fashion Designer in 1991. During his formative years, he met Carmen and Emilia Carriches, workers at EISA Madrid and first assistants to the atelier manager, Felisa Irigoyen. From them he learned Cristóbal Balenciaga's specific dressmaking techniques and how he constructed his volumes – knowledge that has shaped his professional and teaching career. Elisabeth Gasbarre, who trained at the École Lesage in Paris, has worked in the Atelier Cécile Henri, producing creations for the Dior, Chanel and Azzaro collections. She has also worked for fashion designers and companies from several countries such as Hermès, Chafor, Alexis Mabille, Impasse 13, Didit Hediprasetyo and Francesca Fossati. As a professor, she teaches at her atelier in Lyon as well as in other parts of France and fashion centres around the world.

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