

Haute Couture Techniques
On-Site Course
Advanced Level

Fantasy

07 — 11.07.2025

CRISTÓBAL BALENCIAGA MUSEOA



In an interest to promote excellence and greater technical knowledge in the professional fashion sector, the museum presents this advanced course in the specific methods used by workers at the Balenciaga Maison's fantasy ateliers.

The practical and intensive training is part of the programme of courses of the fantasy itinerary and can be carried out either as part of the proposed plan or as an independent activity -although it is valued that the interested person has previously completed the introductory and/or intermediate course of the same itinerary, it is not a compulsory requirement to obtain a place.

The training—running for five days—will include demonstrations of his sewing and pressing techniques. Furthermore, to ensure that the participants achieve practical skills in these techniques, they will produce different parts of a dress dated 1955 and belonging to the museum's collection. Specifically, making a strapless bodice finished with a ribbon cut on the bias, paying special attention to the structure of the inner corselette and all of the typical fastening and finishing techniques used in fantasy workrooms as well as the creation of ruffles, application of organzas, and fine battings.

FANTASY	Duration	Format
Level 1. Beginner	20 hours	On-Site
Level 2. Intermediate	32 hours	Online
Level 3. Advanced	35 hours	On-Site

Presentation of the course and of the programme

1. The Fantasy Atelier

- The materials, silk fabrics and how to work with them
 - Typical fantasy constructions
 - Marking and cutting techniques
 - Positioning prints
 - Adapting the design to the fabric
 - Reinforcements, paddings and other accessories
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2. Practical Exercise: Making an Inner Corsetette

- Preparing and cutting the bodice
 - Seams and the application of strips for boning
 - Application of tulle cups
 - Breast pads
 - Assembling the boning
 - Zip and grosgrain finishes on the neckline
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3. Practical Exercise: Preparing and Cutting a Strapless Bodice

- Preparing and pressing the fabric
 - Matching and marking the pieces
 - Cutting the lining
 - Cancan ruffle
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4. Practical Exercise: Marking and Basting

- Tailor's tacks and marks
 - Basting the bodice
 - Basting the waistline and first fitting
 - Adjustments and alteration
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5. Practical Exercise: Altering and Composing the Bodice

- Making the required alterations
 - Basting and sewing the main seams
 - Pressing techniques
 - Fitting the zip with organza bias binding
 - Application of a decorative strip complete with bow
 - Combined fastenings, zip, poppers, hooks and eyes
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6. Practical Exercise: Assembling the Gathering

- Marking the hem of the bodice
 - Applying organza to the edges and sewing the hemming stitch
 - Lining the panel and overcasting the allowance
 - Running stitch for gathering
 - Gathering the panel and hand sewing it in place
 - Placing the lining at the waist
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Javier Martín

Resident in Madrid though originally from Ávila, Javier Martín graduated at the Polytechnic University of Madrid as Senior Fashion Designer in 1991. During his formative years, he met Carmen and Emilia Carriches, seamstresses at the EISA workshop in the capital and first assistants of the head couturier, Felisa Irigoyen. From them he learned the specific dressmaking techniques of the couturier from Getaria and acquired knowledge on the construction of volumes that would shape his designs.

For ten years, he was part of the team at Sybilla, until 2005, when he decided to create his own brand, Nihil Obstat, focused on Haute Couture. He combines his activity as a designer with collaborations with other creative artists such as Carmen May, Jesús del Pozo or Joaquín Trías, the latter the grandson of a model of the Balenciaga house, to whom he provides technical advice. He worked from 2012 to 2019 for the Spanish company DELPOZO, taking care of the modelling and development of the volumes of part of the collection and developing luxury prêt-à-porter garments with an international projection.

Also a lecturer, he has participated in educational projects of the Spanish Government's Ministry of Education, and has given lectures on design and modelling at the Centro Superior de Diseño de Moda of the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, the European Design Institute of Madrid, and at the Estación Diseño school in Granada, among others. Since 2015, he has been collaborating with the Cristóbal Balenciaga Museoa education programme compiling and transmitting the sewing techniques used at the Balenciaga House ateliers.



Dates	From July 7 to 11, 2025.
Timetable	10:00–14:00/15:00–18:00 Total dedication of 35 hours.
Language	Spanish.
Participants	<p>Those holding qualifications in Fashion Design, Pattern Design and/or Dressmaking, fashion professionals, and all those interested in gaining deeper knowledge of haute couture tailoring techniques. Especially recommended for people who have previously completed the initiation or/and the intermediate course in Haute Couture Fantasy Techniques organised by the museum.</p> <p>The maximum number of participants will be 16 people. The participants will be selected based on the required documentation and place allocations will be communicated from May 15.</p>
Requirements	Those interested in participating must be able to prove that they have prior knowledge of haute couture techniques and that they are capable of cutting, basting and sewing a garment.
Registration	Registration will be open from 16 April to 30 April (including, 23:59 Spanish time), and those wishing to participate must complete the online registration form. Candidates are required to submit a curriculum vitae specifying their training and experience in the world of fashion, as well as a motivation letter stating why the candidate wishes to participate in the activity and their connection to its content. Applications which are incomplete or received after the given deadline will not be accepted.

Price	<p>475€. The price includes the materials required to proceed with the exercises, valued at 50€. The Museum will provide a kit with the necessary material, including pique cotton or similar, cotton trim, tulle, muslin, and all of the accessories need to proceed with the exercises proposed. The participants must, in turn, come equipped with basic sewing tools (scissors, pins & needles, thread, measuring tape, tailors chalk, etc.).</p> <p>The net registration fee to be received by the Cristóbal Balenciaga Foundation is the above-mentioned, all bank charges are to be paid by the participant.</p> <p>The discount for "Friends of the Museum" is restricted to those friends with a demonstrable seniority of at least two years at the time of registration.</p>
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Places limited / Registration is required

In the event of failing to meet the minimum number of participants, all interested parties will be informed of the activity cancellation and any registration fees paid will be refunded

A certificate of attendance will be issued at the end of the activity.

Contact	<p>T +34 943 004 777 info@fbalenciaga.com</p>
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Partnership



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