

Haute Couture Techniques
On-Site Course
Beginner Level

Tailoring

12—14.09.2025



CRISTÓBAL BALENCIAGA MUSEOA

This course proposes an approximation to the specific methods used in the tailoring ateliers at the Balenciaga House. The sessions will include demonstrations of the maison sewing and ironing techniques; furthermore, aiming to convey these practical skills to the students, they will complete several exercises placing special emphasis on working with wool fabric and on the steps required to produce a handmade collar and lapel.

TAILORING	Duration	Format
Level 1. Beginner	20 hours	On-Site
Level 2. Intermediate	27 hours	Online
Level 2. Intermediate [new]	22 hours	Online
Level 3. Advanced	35 hours	On-Site

I. Presentation of the Course and of the Programme

II. Introduction to Haute Couture Tailoring Techniques

IV. Tailoring Fabrics and Their Characteristics

- Worsted
 - Wool
 - Twill
 - Cashmere
 - Gabardine
 - Double face
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IV. Jacket Front with Lape

- Fabric preparation and delustering
 - Marking the front
 - Cutting out the interfacing
 - Double dart
 - Balanced dart
 - Lapel notch
 - Applying galloon to the front edges
 - Cutting out the under collar
 - Making a bound buttonhole
 - Sewing the under collar
 - Ironing
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V. Making a Tailored Collar

- Cutting the pocket and the interfacing
 - Applying the interfacing
 - Finishing the edges
 - Lining and application of the front pocket
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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	September 12-14, 2025.
Timetable	Friday, September 12, 14:30 -18:30 Saturday and Sunday, 13 and 14, 09:30 -13:30 /14:30 -18:30 Total dedication of 20 hours.
Language	Spanish.
Participants	<p>Students or people holding qualifications in Fashion Design, Pattern Design and Dressmaking, fashion professionals and all those interested in learning or improving their knowledge with Haute Couture techniques.</p> <p>The maximum number of participants will be 20 people. The participants will be selected based on the required documentation and place allocations will be communicated from June 30.</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 1 June to 15 June (including, 2 pm 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 290€. The price includes the materials for the development of the exercises for a value of 35€. The Museum will supply each participant with the necessary kit, consisting of wool, interlining and cotton fabric. Participants must, in turn, come equipped with basic sewing tools (scissors, pins & needles, thread, measuring tape, tailors chalk, etc.).

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.

The discount that may correspond to "Friends of the Museum" is restricted to those friends with a demonstrable seniority of at least two years at the time of registration.

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.

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Partnership

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