

Haute Couture Techniques  
Tutored Online Course  
Intermediate Level

# Tailoring

12.01—01.02.2026

CRISTÓBAL BALENCIAGA MUSEOA



# 2A

This is an intermediate level activity, which is part of the course programming of the tailoring itinerary, and which can be carried out either as part of the proposed plan, or as an independent initiative. The programme content proposes an approximation to the specific methods used in the tailoring ateliers of the Balenciaga House and will, specifically, look at how to make certain elements of a check wool jacket.

The course will be structured into seven modules based on audiovisual contents purpose-made to provide an explanation and guidance on the exercises to be carried out. Live online tutorial sessions will also be available for each module, where the instructor will answer the participants' doubts and questions.

The audiovisual contents include demonstrations of his particular sewing and pressing techniques; furthermore, in order for the participants to obtain practical skills in these techniques, they will be required to replicate the processes by putting what they have learned into practice. The audiovisuals can be viewed unlimitedly within the dates established for the course and the participants can organise the development of the proposed exercises at their convenience based on the estimated time of dedication.

The tutoring sessions will take place live, through the Zoom platform, Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 6:00 p.m. (in Spanish) and 7:00 p.m. (in English), with an approximate duration of 50 minutes. The tutorials are recorded and access to these recordings is provided the day after each tutorial takes place.

The various exercises to be carried out, with special emphasis on the treatment of a checked woollen fabric and on the techniques and operations for making a hand-crafted jacket with lapel, are detailed below:

TAILORING	Duration	Format
Level 1. Beginner	20 hours	On-Site
Level 2. Intermediate	50 hours	Online
Level 3. Advanced	35 hours	On-Site

WEEK I	January 12—18
Module 1	Jacket Front
Duration Tutorial Session	4 hours January 13
Contents	<p>This exercise will look at how to make the front of a tailored jacket in check wool fabric. The process will require special attention to the way the pattern is laid out and rendered on the fabric, and above all to the pattern of the fabric itself. To achieve the most harmonious result possible, the piece will be marked, cut out and made up with the checks perfectly aligned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Preparing and delustering the fabric</li> <li>— Marking the front</li> <li>— Cutting out the front</li> <li>— Cutting out the interfacing</li> <li>— Attaching the interfacing to the front</li> </ul>
MODULE 2	Jacket Lapel
Duration Tutorial Session	4 hours January 15
Contents	<p>In the second exercise, participants will learn how to pick-stitch the lapel to give it its characteristic curved shape and to apply the galloon preventing the front edge from losing its shape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Pick-stitching the lapel</li> <li>— Applying the galloon to the interfacing</li> <li>— Finishing the interfacing</li> <li>— Attaching the galloon to the material</li> </ul>
Module 3	Jacket Darts and Princess Seam
Duration Tutorial Session	3 hours January 15
Contents	<p>There are different ways to make the darts depending on the fabric used. In this example, the idea will be to work with open darts, matching the pattern on the fabric.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Basting the darts</li> <li>— Machine sewing the darts and finishing off either end by hand</li> <li>— Cutting and pressing the darts</li> <li>— Cutting out, overlaying and sewing the interfacing in the area of the darts</li> <li>— Joining and pressing the princess seam</li> </ul>

WEEK II	January 19—25
Module 4	Jacket Facing
Duration Tutorial Session	3 hours January 20
Contents	<p>In this module, participants will attach the facing to the lapel, arranging the fabric pattern so that it coincides and matches perfectly at the front.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Positioning the facing</li><li>— Basting and sewing the edge</li><li>— Basting the crease</li><li>— Pressing the lapel</li></ul>
Module 5	Jacket Hem
Duration Tutorial Session	3 hours January 22
Contents	<p>In haute couture tailoring the hem is usually reinforced with a piece of interfacing cut on the bias to give it more body and prevent it from losing its shape. This module will show you how to proceed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Marking the hem</li><li>— Applying the interfacing cut on the bias</li><li>— Basting the hem</li><li>— Sewing the hem stitch between the interfacing and the material</li><li>— Sewing the hem stitch between the hem and the interfacing</li><li>— Pressing the hem</li></ul>

WEEK III	January 26—February 01
Module 6	Buttonhole
Duration	4 hours
Tutorial Session	January 27
Contents	<p>At the Balenciaga House, the buttonholes are edged with piping in the same fabric. In the specific case of patterned fabrics, the pattern is matched in such a way that the buttonhole is completely concealed and impossible to distinguish from the garment. This exercise will show participants how to achieve this result.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Marking the position of the buttonhole</li> <li>— Marking the length and width of the buttonhole</li> <li>— Applying piping from the right side to match the pattern</li> <li>— Cutting the opening of the buttonhole</li> <li>— Pulling the piping through to the wrong side and pressing the seams</li> <li>— Sewing using an invisible stitch to define the width of the piping</li> <li>— Sewing the corners of the buttonhole</li> <li>— Pressing and trimming off the excess fabric</li> </ul>
Module 7	Pocket
Duration	4 hours
Tutorial Session	January 29
Contents	<p>As with the buttonholes, when using patterned fabric, the idea is that the pockets match the pattern on the front of the jacket, and this module will show you how to proceed. The inside of the pocket will also be reinforced using interfacing to prevent it from losing its shape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Marking the position of the pocket</li> <li>— Selecting the fabric for the flap, making sure that the pattern matches</li> <li>— Marking the pocket flap</li> <li>— Applying the interfacing with cross stitch</li> <li>— Closing the edges of the flap</li> <li>— Finishing the flap seams</li> <li>— Sewing the sides of the flap to the front</li> <li>— Sewing with an invisible stitch in the flap seam to attach the inside part</li> <li>— Pressing the pocket</li> </ul>

Note: The jacket is not made in its entirety, but rather part of it is used as a framework for experimentation. The jacket being worked on in this course can be completed in the subsequent intermediate online tailoring course 2B, which has a separate application process. Those interested in taking this course and completing the jacket must register specifically for the aforementioned separate course within the stipulated deadlines in order for their application to be considered.

## 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 January 12 to February 1, 2026. Total estimated dedication of 25 hours.
Timetable	Each participant will have the possibility of organising their schedule to develop the exercises proposed according to the estimated time required and within the dates established for each module. The tutorial sessions, for their part, will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 6:00 p.m. (in Spanish) and 7:00 p.m. (in English), lasting approximately 50 minutes. At the end of the course, specifically on Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 February, the final tutorial will be held, which will focus on the presentation and discussion of the final projects with the instructor. For this last session, small groups of no more than 5-6 people will be organised, and both the date and the specific time allocated will be communicated once the course has started.
Language	The audiovisual materials are in Spanish, but all the practical work is demonstrated through role-play, making it possible to follow the exercises. Tutorials are held in two different groups and languages, Spanish and English.
Participants	<p>Students or people holding qualifications in Fashion Design, Pattern Design and/or Dressmaking, fashion professionals, and all those interested in starting to learn Haute Couture tailoring techniques. Especially indicated for people who have previously completed the introductory course in haute couture tailoring techniques organized by the Museum and who want to continue delving into them.</p> <p>The maximum number of participants will be 30 people. The participants will be selected based on the required documentation and place allocations will be communicated from December 18 .</p>
Requirements	Those interested in participating must be able to prove that they have prior knowledge of sewing techniques and that they are capable of cutting, basting and sewing a garment. Although it is not an essential requirement to participate in the call, it will be favourably valued to have completed the initiation level course of this itinerary.
Registration	Registration will be open from the date on which the masterclass is announced, December 1 to December 15 (including, 02:00 p.m., 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.

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Price	<p>340 €. The price includes the materials and their shipment to mainland Spain for proceeding with the exercises. The Museum will provide a kit of the necessary material for each participant, consisting of wool fabric, interfacing, galloon trim, as well as the pattern, which will be sent to the address provided before the course start date.</p> <p>In addition to the registration fee, people living outside mainland Spain will also have to pay the corresponding cost of shipment which is, depending on the destination, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Balearic Islands 18€</li><li>— Canary Islands 30€</li></ul> <p>For participants residing in EU zones other than those listed and, similarly, those living outside the EU, the Museum will provide the criteria and requirements for acquiring the necessary material in their corresponding countries. In such cases, the cost of registration will be 320 €.</p> <p>The participants, for their part, must equip themselves with the basic sewing tools (needles, pins, measuring tape, tailor's chalk, etc.), a set square, sewing machine, iron, pressing cloth, pad cushion for pressing and a dummy, as well as a computer and/or tablet and an internet connection so that they can watch the audiovisuals and attend the online tutorials.</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.

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