

Haute Couture Techniques  
Tutored Online Course  
Intermediate Level

# Fantasy

09—29.03.2026



CRISTÓBAL BALENCIAGA MUSEO A

This is an intermediate level activity, which is part of the course programming of the fantasy 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 fantasy ateliers of the Balenciaga House and will address the realization of a lace bodice with a silk taffeta base open both on the side and on the left shoulder.

The training 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 within the established dates of 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.

FANTASY	Duration	Format
Level 1. Beginner	20 hours	On-Site
Level 2. Intermediate	30 hours	Online
Level 3. Advanced	35 hours	On-Site

Week I	March 09—15
Module 1	Cutting and Marking the Bodice
Duration Tutorial Session	4 hours March 10
Contents	<p>This first module will look at how to prepare the fabric and cut out the different parts making it up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Cutting and marking the bodice in silk fabric</li><li>— Cutting and marking the bodice in lace fabric</li><li>— Cutting the blonde lace</li><li>— Cutting the facings of the neckline and armholes</li><li>— Cutting the bias binding to finish the left shoulder</li><li>— Cutting the grosgrain ribbon for the waist</li></ul>
Module 2	Assembling the Shoulder and Neckline of the Bodice
Duration Tutorial Session	6 hours March 12
Contents	<p>The second module will look at the process of basting and sewing the right shoulder and the facings of the neckline in the silk fabric and, later, in the lace fabric.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Open seam of the right shoulder</li><li>— Application of the organza bias tape to the inside of the neckline</li><li>— Sewing the neckline facings, cutting the edges and turning in the facings</li><li>— Inlaying the lace seam on the right shoulder</li><li>— Inlaying the blonde lace on the neckline</li></ul>
Module 3	Joining the Lace Bodice to Silk Bodice
Duration Tutorial Session	4 hours March 12
Contents	<p>In the third place, we will sew the right-hand seam in the silk fabric, do the same in the lace, and then sew the lace to the silk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Fitting the lace over the silk bodice</li><li>— Sewing the right side in the silk fabric and pressing it</li><li>— Inlaying the right side in the lace, cutting and pressing it</li><li>— Fixing the lace to the silk fabric at the armhole, neckline and left side</li></ul>

Week II	March 16—22
Module 4	Assembling the Facings of the Bodice
Duration Tutorial Session	4 hours March 17
Contents	<p>In this module we will sew the facings of the armholes and join them to the facing of the neckline, before proceeding to whipstitch its edges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Applying the facings to the armholes</li><li>— Sewing the facings, cutting the edges and turning them in</li><li>— Hand whipstitching of the shoulder and side seams</li><li>— Joining the neckline facing to the armhole facing using cross-stitching</li><li>— Hand whipstitching the edges of the facings</li></ul>
Module 5	Left Shoulder Opening
Duration Tutorial Session	4 hours March 19
Contents	<p>The fifth module will explain how to make the left shoulder opening, which will be closed with hooks and eyes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Preparation of the shoulder opening, folding the front edge inwards and applying the hooks. Lining the opening</li><li>— Making a prolongation for the back of the shoulder using silk bias tape, applying the eyes and lining the back of the shoulder</li><li>— Finishing the inside of the shoulder opening</li><li>— Folding the ends of the shoulder and fixing them in place to form a pleat</li></ul>

Week III	March 23—29
Module 6	Seam Opening
Duration Tutorial Session	4 hours March 24
Contents	<p>In the sixth exercise we will make up the left-hand opening with a combination of hooks &amp; eyes and snap fasteners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Preparation of the side opening, folding the edge of the front side inwards</li><li>— Application of the hook and eye to the top part and of the small male parts of the snap fastener to the inside of the front side</li><li>— Folding the back side leaving a margin of 1.5 m.</li><li>— Making a thread loop at the top and applying small female stud fasteners on the outside of the back</li></ul>
Module 7	Making the Waistband
Duration Tutorial Session	4 hours March 26
Contents	<p>In the seventh module we will finish the garment by adding a waistband to gather the garment at the waist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Three rows of bastille stitching to provide the gathering at the front of the waist and another three at the back</li><li>— Gathering of the waist to its final size</li><li>— Placing a strip of lace on the waistband bias tape</li><li>— Applying the waistband to the waist and sewing with a machine</li><li>— Sewing the grosgrain tape in place</li><li>— Finishing the inside of the waistband</li><li>— Applying a hook and eye to the end of the waistband to close it</li></ul>

## 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.



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Dates	From March 9 to 29, 2026. Total estimated dedication of 30 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. The final tutorial, on Thursday 26 March, will focus on presenting and discussing the final projects with the instructor. For this last session, small groups of approximately 6 people will be organised, and the specific time allocated will be communicated once the course has begun.
Language	The course will be taught in both Spanish and English. The audiovisual materials are available in both languages, and tutorials are held in two different groups and languages, Spanish and English.
Participants	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.  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 January 30.
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 January 7 to 23 (including 14:00, 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 1 metre of silk fabric, 1 metre of lace, organza bias tape, hooks &amp; eyes and snap fasteners, 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 16€</li><li>— Canary Islands 28€</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 2 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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