

Haute Couture Techniques
On-Site Course
Advanced Level

Tailoring

22—26.06.2026

CRISTÓBAL BALENCIAGA MUSEOA



With the aim of promoting the transmission of Cristóbal Balenciaga's technical expertise and making this knowledge accessible to a new generation of fashion professionals, the museum is presenting this advanced course, which focuses on the specific methods used in the couturier's tailoring workshops.

This practical, intensive course forms part of the tailoring programme. It can be taken either as part of the proposed training programme or as a stand-alone course. Although it is recommended that participants have previously completed the introductory and/or intermediate courses in the same programme, this is not a mandatory requirement to obtain a place.

The five-day course includes demonstrations of the sewing and ironing techniques characteristic of the Balenciaga House. Furthermore, to ensure that participants acquire practical skills, they will work on making a half-jacket from an ensemble created at the Maison in Paris. Specifically, this is a model in blue and white twill wool with a 'quadrillé' pattern, dated February 1966 and belonging to the museum's collection, which is an excellent example of the couturier's rigorous technical mastery.

The various exercises proposed place particular emphasis on the treatment of finishes specific to tailoring fabrics, as well as on the techniques and processes required for the handcrafted construction of a checked fabric jacket with Japanese sleeves and flap pockets. Particular attention will be paid to correctly adapting the pattern to the fabric's design, in order to preserve the harmony and continuity of the check pattern.

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

Presentation of the course and of the programme

1. Study of the Jacket to Be Worked On

- The tailoring workshop
 - Structure of the jacket and the skirt
 - Nattier double twill
 - Adjusting the design to the fabric
 - Construction and techniques
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2. Practical Exercise: Preparing the Work and Cutting

- Delustering the fabric
 - Marking the jacket pieces
 - Interfacings
 - Shoulder pad
 - Linings
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3. Practical Exercise: Marking and Basting

- Tailor's tacks and marks
 - Applying the interfacings
 - Applying the galloon to the front edge
 - Basting and presentation for first fitting
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4. Practical Exercise: Sewing and Ironing

- Basting to match checked patterns
 - Sewing and ironing darts
 - Assembling the seams of the shoulder and the Japanese? sleeve
 - Inserting the princess seam and the insert
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5. Practical Exercise: Shoulder Pad

- Cutting and topstitching the facing or percale
 - Graduated cutting of the fine batting
 - Pick stitching and shaping the shoulder pad
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6. Practical Exercise: Buttonholes and Pockets

- Marking the buttonholes
 - Applying the piping, matching the checked pattern
 - Making the flaps
 - Inserting the flaps in the slit
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7. Practical Exercise: Balenciaga Collar

- Introduction to the "Balenciaga collar"
- Adjustment to cut on the grain
- Pick stitching and moulding the collar
- Cutting the upper collar
- Applying and fitting the upper collar
- Hand finished

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 June 22 to 2y6, 2026.
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 Tailoring 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 April 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 remain open until 15 April (up to and including 2.00 pm Spanish time). Interested parties must complete the online registration form. Applicants must attach a CV detailing their education and experience in the field of fashion, as well as a cover letter explaining their interest in the programme and how it relates to its content. Incomplete applications or those submitted after the deadline will be automatically excluded.

Price 475€. The price includes the materials required to proceed with the exercises, valued at 55€. The museum will provide a kit with the necessary material, including the wool fabric, interfacing, galloon trim, lining and fine batting required to complete the exercises proposed. The 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 for "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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