

The Tailoring Academy

The Benchmark



"The Tailoring Academy is the benchmark for Bespoke Tailoring education, and this should be celebrated as the exemplar in the UK."

Alan Cannon Jones MSc. F.FCDE, Chairman of the Judges

[The Golden Shears](#) Awards

The Tailoring Academy

The Academy



Staff and Premises

- Dedicated, state-of the art workroom for 16 full-time students.
- Three full-time tutors, all fully qualified cutters and tailors.
- Training delivered under the supervision of a master tailor of 35 years.



The Tailoring Academy

Accreditations & Approvals:

- UK Fashion and Textile Association ([UKFT](#)) Education Partner.
- Accredited as training provider by Skills & Education Group ([SEG](#)).
- Accredited by British Accreditation Council ([BAC](#)) for Independent Further and Higher Education.
- Approved by the Department for Education ([DfE](#)) for the delivery of Level 5 apprenticeship training.



The Tailoring Academy

Level 5 Diploma in Bespoke Tailoring

Alternative to the Apprenticeship

Developed by the Savile Row Bespoke Association, the stand-alone [qualification](#) embodies the highest standards in UK tailoring training.

The UK Fashion and Textiles Association (UKFT):

“The Ofqual-regulated qualification ensures that specialist skills can be accessed through Higher Education (HE) delivery.”



Savile Row Bespoke
ASSOCIATION

The Tailoring Academy

Level 5 Diploma in Bespoke Tailoring

Key Facts

- Ofqual – regulated
- [UKFT](#) - approved dual qualification (Bespoke Cutter & Tailor)
- Full-time, Monday to Thursday 10am to 5pm | Fridays voluntary practice
- 34 weeks September 2026 to July 2027
- Course fee £12,000 | Payable in four instalments



The Tailoring Academy

Two Qualifications

Bespoke Cutter AND Tailor



A Holistic Approach

- Apprentices must typically choose between pathways to become either trouser/coat makers OR cutters.
- The Tailoring Academy delivers the ENTIRE skill set to all our students, for male and female figure types.
- Graduates leave the course with TWO acknowledged qualifications, as fully rounded crafts- and businesspeople.

The Tailoring Academy

The Location

Mill & Hills

- Macclesfield, historic market town and heart of the UK silk industry.
- In the foothills of the Peak District and only a short drive from West Yorkshire's woollen mills.
- Affordable accommodation in walking distance. Serviced shared house for int'l students.
- Lively cultural scene, home of the award-winning [Treacle Market](#) and independent shops.
- Fast train links to Manchester (25 min) and London (1h 40min).



The Tailoring Academy

The Founder

Brita Hirsch

Master Tailor

Textile Engineer (Dipl-Ing FH, Germany)



1987 – 2000 Bespoke Tailor: Private Practice, Phantom of the Opera, Ernst Deutsch Theatre Hamburg et al.

2007 – 2013 Advanced Engineering for Autoliv Global Development Group [Patents](#)

2013 Founded bespoke tailoring house [Hirsch Tailoring](#)

2017 Launched [The Great Northern Cloth](#)

2018 Founded [The Tailoring Academy](#)

2018 Winner of the Textile Society [Professional Development Award](#)



The Tailoring Academy

Entry Requirements

What we expect

An intensive, highly rewarding Programme

The Level 5 Diploma delivers the entire skills set of what would normally be an apprenticeship. By adopting a structured approach to the training in a real business environment, the course offers the best of two worlds.

Candidates are expected to have:

- Previous experience in garment making 'equivalent to a Level 3 in a related field'.
- Determination to learn at a professional standard, and to make the best of their time at the academy.



The Tailoring Academy

The Curriculum

What you can expect

A Focus on practical Skills Training

- Individual pattern construction for bespoke coat, waistcoat and trouser (male and female figure types).
- Complete cutting and tailoring techniques for bespoke coat, waistcoat and trouser (male and female figure types).
- Heritage hand finishing techniques.
- Customer and supplier relation, bespoke cost calculation.
- Material science: heritage wool cloth and tailoring trimmings.



The Tailoring Academy

Community Tailoring

Earn while you learn

- Voluntary for Level 5 students.
- Offered during the 3rd term (mid April to mid July)
- We pair students with members of the community who wish to commission a bespoke garment.
- Cost, consult on and work through a real bespoke commission with a private customer.
- Work for a real customer whilst having the full support of our tutors, use of facilities and access to suppliers.



The Tailoring Academy

Progression

Case Study I

A Career at the Opera

John joined our first cohort as a fashion design graduate from NCAD in Dublin. He was looking for solid traditional tailoring and pattern construction skills.

He knew that adding this specialist expertise to his existing skill set would enable him to follow a more ambitious career path.

John made full use of this opportunity, and following his graduation, he accepted the offer of a tailoring position at [Glyndebourne Festival Opera](#).



G L Y N D E B O U R N E

The Tailoring Academy

Progression

Case Study II



Tailoring for the Royal Household

Victoria joined our 2021/22 cohort with no formal previous experience, but love for meticulous hand craft, a clear idea of what she wanted and determination to achieve that goal.

Following her graduation in July 2022, Victoria signed with bespoke tailors [Samuel Brothers](#), holders of a Royal Warrant and Tailors to King Charles III.

Victoria went on to win at the Oscars of the Tailoring World, the 2023 [Golden Shears Awards](#)!



The Tailoring Academy

Progression

Case Study III

A Career on Savile Row

Savile Row Tailors
ANDERSON & SHEPPARD
32 Old Burlington Street
London W1S 3AT

Connie graduated from the Level 5 Diploma in 2021, to join bespoke tailors [Carl Stuart](#), West Yorkshire.

She moved to London in 2024, to become a bespoke coat maker at [Anderson & Sheppard](#) on Savile Row.



Carl Stuart
BESPOKE TAILOR *for* LADIES & GENTLEMEN
MADE IN YORKSHIRE
Est. 1929

The Tailoring Academy

Admission Process

How to join

The Process

- Submit your [application](#), letting us know about your background and motivation to join.
- If your application is successful, we invite you to a personal interview.
- If we offer you a place, you secure it by signing the course agreement and settling the enrolment fee.
- Pay in three further instalments throughout the academic year.

