

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, former Chairman of the Judges

The Golden Shears Awards

The Tailoring Academy

The Academy



Staff & Workshop:

- Dedicated, state-of-the-art workshop 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.



RECOGNISED CENTRE

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 ([Skills England](#)) for the delivery of Level 5 apprenticeship training.



The Tailoring Academy

The Founder

Brita Hirsch

Master Tailor
Textile Engineer (Dipl-Ing FH, Germany)



- 1987 - 2000** Bespoke Tailor for Tom Reimer Hamburg, Phantom of the Opera, Ernst Deutsch Theatre 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

Study in the UK The Standard Visitor Route



Key Facts:

- The Visitor route allows international students to study in the UK on a course of up to 6 months.
- Study must be at an accredited institution which can provide you with an acceptance letter.
- Our acceptance letter is issued with approval from the British Accreditation Council ([BAC](#)).
- See the guidance of the Council for International Student Affairs ([UKCISA](#)) for further information.



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International Program approved by UKFT

Level 5 Diploma

- 34 weeks
- Ofqual-regulated
- Internally assessed
- Externally verified

The Bespoke Jacket

- 18 weeks
- Approved by UKFT
- Internally assessed
- Externally verified

The Bespoke Trouser & The Bespoke Waistcoat

- 16 weeks
- Approved by UKFT
- Internally assessed
- Externally verified

Approved
by

**UK Fashion &
Textile
Association
(UKFT)**

Key Facts:

- Two stand-alone courses ✓
- Each less than six month long = permitted under UK Visitor Visa ✓
- Approved and certified by the **UK Fashion and Textile Association (UKFT)** ✓
- Training provision at the highest standard in the UK ✓



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International Program

Course Details 2027/28



Course I: The Bespoke Jacket

Dates: 13 September 2027 - 11 February 2028

Duration: 18 weeks

Fee: £7,750 (incl. VAT)*

Course II: The Bespoke Trouser & Waistcoat

Dates: 21 February 2028 / 7 July 2028

Duration: 16 weeks

Fee: £6,950 (incl. VAT)*

*Payment schedule available



The Tailoring Academy

The Location

Mill & Hills:

- Based in Macclesfield, a historic market town in Northwest England, the heart of the UK textile industry.
- In the foothills of the [Peak District National Park](#), a short drive from West Yorkshire woollen mills.
- We provide access to affordable, high-quality accommodation in walking distance.
- Lively cultural scene, home of the award-winning [Treacle Market](#) and independent shops.
- Fast train links to Manchester (25 min) and the capital London (1h 40min).



treacle
market
macclesfield

The Tailoring Academy

The Curriculum

What you can expect



Practical Skills Training:

- Individual pattern construction for bespoke jacket | waistcoat and trouser (male and female figure types).
- Complete cutting and tailoring techniques for bespoke jacket | 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

Entry Requirements

What we expect

An intensive, rewarding Program

The International Program 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 program offers the best of two worlds.

Candidates are expected to have:

- Previous experience in garment making.
- Determination to make the best of their time at the academy.



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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 via Zoom.
- If we offer you a place, you secure it by signing the course agreement and settling the enrolment fee.
- Pay in two further instalments throughout your course.



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

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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](#)!



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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

Progression

Case Study IV



Starting a Tailoring Business

Duane joined the Academy 2023/24 from Maine, US, as a retired nurse. Known as [mainelymenswear](#) for the sizeable online community he had built around home-sewing his own wardrobe, he wanted to take his skills set to the next, the professional level.

Once graduated, he didn't waste any time, and started his own custom tailoring house [Holdfast Bespoke](#), supplying both commercial and private customers.

You can also catch him telling his story on the [Threads Magazine podcast](#).



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Progression

Case Study V

A Career in Rome

Eshyah joined our 2025/26 international program with only self-taught experience in garment making. Her goal was clear: to learn to master the heritage techniques that would enable her to work at a professional standard.

She learned to work across the cutting and tailoring briefs and took her Community Tailoring project on with characteristic aplomb, tailoring a three-piece suit for her father (!)

Half-way through the course, she took her first bespoke jacket on a Europeans tour, securing a position with renowned Master Tailor [Gaetano Aloisio](#) in Rome, Italy.



Gaetano Aloisio

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International Students

Q & A

LIVING IN THE UK

When should I start looking for a flat/room?

As soon as you have signed your course agreement, but you may find that accommodation is becoming available even on a short notice basis.

How difficult is finding accommodation in the UK as an outsider?

We provide access to newly renovated, shared [accommodation](#) upon request.

Do you need any other insurances / would you recommend getting any?

There aren't any legal requirements for further insurances, but you may want to consider travel insurance etc.

Is the cost of living in the UK comparable to other countries?

<https://livingcost.org>

Recommendation for areas to live, what to look for, what/where to stay away from?

Anywhere within walking distance of the academy is safe and convenient.

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International Students

Q & A

BANKING

What bank do you recommend?

[Wise](#) is a low cost, low hassle solution that offers a debit card allowing you to spend in the local currency, pound sterling.

How does Wise work?

Wise has a [multi-currency account](#).

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International Students

Q & A

HEALTH CARE

International candidates should have private health insurance for the duration of their stay (discuss with current insurer to see if their overseas stay is covered).

EU candidates have some cover through EHIC but should consider private health insurance in addition for a more comprehensive cover.

Please consult the NHS website for further guidance:

[NHS \(=National Health Service\)](#)

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International Students

Q & A

VISA / IMMIGRATION

Can I study both courses on a visitor visa?

Yes. Each of our courses is under six months long. You need a second visa to enrol for the second course.

If one has to leave between courses, for how long?

Please see page 20 for a statement from UKVI (Visas and Immigration) .

I'm a non-visa national, but is it recommended I apply for one anyway?

Applying for a Standard Visitor visa prior to travel is not recommended for nationals of non-visa countries. They can use the eGates (biometric passport) at the UK border.

I'm a visa country national, do I need to apply for my visa prior to travel?

Yes, please see page 20 for more information.

Does the TA issue a formal letter of acceptance, to show border officials?

Yes, we will issue a formal letter under the BAC accreditation scheme as part of the documentation required for entry to the UK.

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International Students

Q & A

THE ACADEMY

Is the TA open during the holidays/breaks?

For insurance reasons, this is subject to the availability of staff. Likely to be the case except for Christmas and Easter bank holidays. The workshop is open to students every Friday.

What is the estimated cost of materials?

All materials and trimmings are included in the course fee.

What do employment opportunities look like? Are positions offered close to/just after completion of the course?

Under the Standard Visitor visa, students are not permitted to work in the UK. You can apply for a work visa from outside the UK.

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International Students

Q & A

T H E P R O G R A M M E

What is the ratio of practical lessons to theoretical ones?

90%/10%

Is there homework?

Yes, there will be several assignments.

Are you expected to work on the project from home?

No.

What does the majority of students do after finishing the course?

Enter employment / self-employment in a related field.

Are there grades?

The course is pass or fail.

How is the work evaluated?

By ongoing internal and final external assessment.

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UKVI (Visas & Immigration) Statement

British Accreditation Council (BAC) <-> UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI)

Q: If a student had studied a six-month course with an institution, can they then apply for a second Visitor Visa to study another course at the same institution within the same year?

A: Effectively yes, the student would need to be able to demonstrate that they have been offered a place on a course of study and that they aren't continuing a course in excess of 6 months via frequent and successive study.

Q: What is the minimum time allowed between applying for a second Standard Visitor Visa and do students need to leave the country in order to make the application?

A: There is **no specific time limit** or requirement for a student to be outside the UK for a specific period between periods of study on the Visitor route, the requirement is simply that a student must not be using the Visitor route to undertake 'Frequent and Successive' visits or undertake a longer course that should be undertaken on the Student route.

In effect, this means that a student could be granted on the Visitor route to study, then apply again shortly after for a second course, this would be acceptable, provided the student has been offered a place on a course and can demonstrate that they aren't undertaking a course longer than six months via multiple visits or essentially living in the UK under the Visitor route.

Visit visas cannot be applied for from within the UK, a Visitor would either have to apply prior to travel if they are a visa national or apply on arrival at the UK border if they are a non-visa national.

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International Program

Useful Links

Advice & Guidance:

The UK Council for International Student Affairs ([UKCISA](#)) is the UK's national advisory body supporting international students and those who work with them. The council provides advice, guidance and information about all aspects of the international student experience.

Find specific guidance on the [Visitor Route](#) including on entry requirements, clearance for non-visa nationals and other useful information here.

The Home Office [Visitor Guidance](#) is the official UK government advice for study on a visitor visa.

[Non-visa nationals](#) do not need to apply for the Standard visitor visa before entering the UK.

Visas and Immigration:

Going through immigration control:

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Visas-and-Immigration/Immigration-on-arrival>

The Tailoring Academy

Healthcare

The National Health
Service (NHS)



All Visitors

Some services or treatments carried out in an NHS hospital are exempt from charges, they're free to all. These include:

- [A&E services](#) – not including emergency treatment if admitted to hospital.
- Treatment for most infectious diseases.

<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/visiting-or-moving-to-england/how-to-access-nhs-services-in-england-if-you-are-visiting-from-abroad/>

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Healthcare

The National Health
Service (NHS)



Visitors from outside the European Economic Area (EEA):

- If you are visiting England from outside the EEA, you'll be charged for NHS secondary care at 150% of the standard NHS rate.
- Make sure you are covered for healthcare through personal medical or travel insurance for all your visit.

<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/visiting-or-moving-to-england/visitors-from-outside-the-european-economic-area-eea/>

The Tailoring Academy

Healthcare

The National Health
Service (NHS)



Visitors from inside the EEA (including the EU)

- If you are a visitor from an EU country and you fall ill or have a medical emergency during your temporary stay in England, you can use your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).
- Your EHIC will cover you for treatment that becomes medically necessary during a visit to England, until you return to your country.
- Consider private health insurance in addition for a more comprehensive cover.

<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/visiting-or-moving-to-england/visitors-from-eu-countries-norway-iceland-liechtenstein-or-switzerland/>