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.

Skills & Education Group Awards

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.

BAC ACCREDITED SHORT COURSE PROVIDER

Skills England

EDUCATION PARTNER • 2026 • EDUCATION PARTNER • 2026 • ukft

Skills & Education Group Awards

RECOGNISED CENTRE

The Tailoring Academy



Level 5 Diploma

in Bespoke Tailoring

Alternative to the Apprenticeship

Developed by the Savile Row Bespoke Association as an alternative to the traditional apprenticeship, the **qualification** embodies the highest standards in UK tailoring training.

Su Thomas, SRBA Director:

"The Savile Row Bespoke Association is delighted to support this new accredited Level 5 qualification in Bespoke Tailoring and Cutting.."

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 2027 to July 2028
- 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).

treacle market
Macclesfield

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 TEXTILE SOCIETY
for the study of the design, art and history of textiles
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.

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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**.

GLYNDEBOURNE

The Tailoring Academy

Progression

Case Study II



Tailoring for the Royal Household

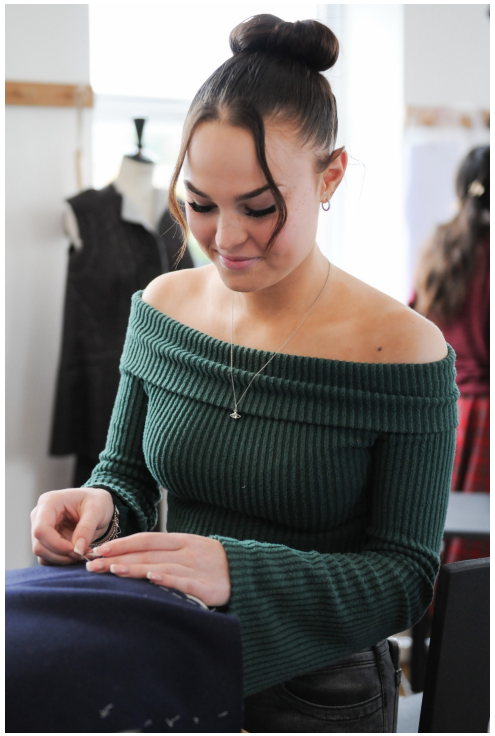
Victoria joined our 2021/22 cohort with no formal previous experience, but love for meticulous hand craft, a clear idea of what she wanted and determination to achieve that goal.

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**!

Samuel Brothers
BESPOKE TAILORS
— EST 1830 —

The Tailoring Academy





Progression

Case Study III

Leading in Women's Tailoring

Lucy joined the Level 5 Diploma straight out of school, with an A Levels in Textiles.

Being drawn to the craft's combination of artistry and technical rigor, she impressed us all with a work ethic and resilience far beyond her years.

Having acquired cutting and tailoring expertise for both the male and female clients on the programme, Lucy was offered the position of **head of women's wear** only a short time after joining bespoke tailor **Michael Frackowiak** in Liverpool.

M. Frackowiak
BESPOKE TAILOR
LIVERPOOL & LONDON

The Tailoring Academy

Progression

Case Study IV





A Career in Rome

Eshyah joined our international program with only self-taught prior experience. 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

The Tailoring Academy

Progression

Case Study V



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.