

The Full-Time Bespoke Tailoring Course is the Handcraft Tailor Academy's most comprehensive programme of training, designed for students who wish to develop a complete foundation in traditional bespoke tailoring through one structured and progressive course of study.

Rather than completing a series of individual courses in isolation, students progress through a carefully sequenced programme in which the skills learned at each stage are carried forward and applied to the next. Techniques are taught thoroughly when first introduced and then developed through practical garment making, avoiding unnecessary repetition and allowing considerably more time to be devoted to the craft itself.

The programme is divided into two parts.

Part One – Trouser & Waistcoat Cutting and Making establishes the foundations of bespoke tailoring. Students begin with pattern drafting for trousers and waistcoats before undertaking intensive training in the fundamental hand and machine techniques used throughout traditional tailoring. Following a dedicated period of independent workshop practice, these skills are applied to the cutting, fitting and construction of bespoke waistcoats and trousers.

Part Two – Jacket Cutting, Making and Fitting progresses to the most advanced garment in the bespoke tailor's repertoire. Students study jacket pattern drafting, cutting, balance and figuration before moving into the construction of a fully hand-tailored bespoke jacket. The principles taught in *The Art and Science of Fitting Gentlemen's Garments* are integrated throughout this part of the programme, allowing students to learn fitting not simply as theory, but through the diagnosis and correction of real garments during the making process.

Students may choose to follow either the menswear or ladies wear pathway, applying the Academy's traditional handcraft methods to their chosen discipline.

Together, Parts One and Two provide 20 weeks of instructor-led training, supported by dedicated independent workshop study weeks. Class sizes are limited to a maximum of four students, allowing for a high level of individual instruction throughout the programme. The objective is not simply to teach students how to reproduce a particular garment, but to develop an understanding of the relationship between pattern, figure, fit and construction giving them the technical foundation from which to continue developing as bespoke cutters and tailors.

Part One Course Syllabus

Part One is divided into four courses, progressing from pattern drafting and fundamental tailoring techniques through to the construction of bespoke trousers and waistcoats.

Course Structure

Pattern Drafting for Trousers & Waistcoats

Students will learn how to draft and cut patterns for bespoke trousers and waistcoats for a variety of figure types, taking into account individual measurements, proportions and figurations. Taught over two weeks, comprising 10 days of instruction.

Tailoring Techniques

Covers the fundamental hand and machine techniques, construction methods and details used in bespoke trouser and waistcoat making. Taught over two weeks, comprising 10 days of instruction.

Men's Bespoke Trouser Making

Students apply the skills developed during the preceding courses to the cutting, fitting and construction of a pair of bespoke trousers using traditional handcraft tailoring methods. Taught over three weeks, comprising 15 days of instruction.

Men's Bespoke Waistcoat Making – The Savile Row Style

Students progress to the cutting, fitting and construction of a bespoke waistcoat using traditional Savile Row methods. Taught over three weeks, comprising 15 days of instruction.

Part One therefore comprises 10 weeks (or 50) days of instructor-led training, together with a dedicated independent study and workshop practice week.

Part One

Week 1	Pattern Drafting: Trousers
Lesson 1	Measurements and Figure Assessment Introduction to drafting tools, the measurement chart and head units. Students learn how to take accurate measurements and assess individual figure types and figurations
Lesson 2	Topside Trouser Drafts Drafting the topsides for straight-leg, closed-leg and bow-leg figures
Lesson 3	Underside Trouser Drafts Drafting the undersides for straight-leg, closed-leg and bow-leg figures
Lesson 4	Trouser Figurations and Variations Drafting for duck-foot and pigeon-toed figures, extreme knock-knees, and variations in the relationship between waist and seat
Lesson 5	Portly Figures, Pleated Trousers and Seat Angle Drafting for the portly figure and pleated trouser styles, together with an examination of the function of the seat angle and its effect on balance and fit.
Week 2	Pattern Drafting: Waistcoats
Lesson 6	6" IDrop Drafting a single-breasted waistcoat for a 6" chest-to-waist drop
Lesson 7	5" and 4" Drops Drafting single-breasted waistcoats for 5" and 4" drops
Lesson 8	3" and 2" Drops Drafting single-breasted waistcoats for 3" and 2" drops
Lesson 9	1" and 0" Drops Drafting single-breasted waistcoats for 1" and 0" drops
Lesson 10	1" and 0" Drops Drafting single-breasted waistcoats for 1" and 0" drops

Week 3	Tailoring Techniques
Lesson 1	The Industrial Sewing Machine Introduction to the safe and accurate use of an industrial sewing machine, including threading, winding and inserting the bobbin, adjusting tension and developing control of the machine
Lesson 2	Jetted Pockets and the Handmade Buttonhole Introduction to the construction of jetted pockets, concentrating initially on forming the jets Introduction to the traditional handmade buttonhole
Lesson 3	Double-Jetted Back Pocket and Cross-Stitched Hems Construction of a double-jetted trouser back pocket, followed by the traditional cross-stitching technique used to secure trouser hems
Lesson 4	Slanted Hip Pocket and Basting Fullness into Linings Construction of the slanted trouser hip pocket and an introduction to distributing and basting the correct amount of fullness into linings
Lesson 5	Straight Hip Pocket and Felling Linings Construction of the straight trouser hip pocket, followed by the hand-felling techniques used to secure linings
Week 4	
Lesson 6	Zip Fly and Pick-Stitching Construction of the zip fly used across a range of bespoke trouser styles, followed by pick-stitching the pocket mouth
Lesson 7	Welted Back Pocket and Padding Stitch Construction of a welted trouser back pocket. Introduction to padding stitch and depth sewing
Lesson 8	Waistbands, Belt Loops and Side Straps Construction of a traditional trouser waistband with belt loops, together with the alternative use and construction of side straps
Lesson 9	Shrinking the Trousers Legs Introduction to the traditional ironwork used to shrink and shape trouser legs
Lesson 10	Welted Breast Pocket Construction of the welted breast pocket used in bespoke waistcoat making

Week 5	Independent Study & Workshop Practise
	Week 5 is dedicated to independent study and workshop practice, allowing students to consolidate the pattern drafting and fitting principles developed during the first four weeks. Students will be tasked with drafting personal trouser and waistcoat patterns to their own measurements and figuration. These patterns will be reviewed and checked by the tutor when formal classes resume. Students are also encouraged to use this week to repeat and practise the tailoring techniques introduced during Weeks 3 and 4 in preparation for applying them to complete garments.

Week 6	Men's Bespoke Trouser Making
Lesson 1	Cutting, Laying and Inlays The trouser-making project begins with laying the pattern and cutting the cloth. Students learn the correct positioning of the pattern, grain lines and the provision of appropriate inlays
Lesson 2	Fixing and Mark-Stitching The linings and pocket pieces are cut to size. Students learn how to fix the two layers of cloth securely together before mark-stitching the pattern and construction lines, accurately transferring them through both layers of cloth
Lesson 3	Overlocking and Pocket Preparation The cut components are prepared for construction. An industrial overlocker is used to secure the raw edges and prevent the cloth from fraying before the pockets are prepared
Lesson 4	Zip Fly Construction of the trouser fly, applying the technique previously learned during the Tailoring Techniques course
Lesson 5	Hip Pockets Construction of the hip pockets. Students may choose between the straight or slanted pocket styles taught earlier in the programme
Week 7	
Lesson 6	Back Pockets and Side Seams Construction of the back pockets and assembly of the side seams. Students may select one of the back-pocket styles previously learned during Tailoring Techniques
Lesson 7	Belt Loops, Waistband and Side Straps Construction and attachment of the waistband and belt loops. Students may alternatively choose to make side straps
Lesson 8	Inside Legs and Shrinking The inside-leg seams are sewn before traditional ironwork is used to shrink and shape the trouser legs
Lesson 9	Hooks and Bars and Preparation for Fitting Hooks and bars are attached and the trousers prepared for their first fitting
Lesson 10	Basting for the Fitting The internal construction is tidied and secured before the trousers are basted and prepared for fitting

Week 8	
Lesson 11	Fitting: Rip and Remark Students learn how to conduct a trouser fitting, identify balance and fitting issues, and make the necessary alterations. The trousers are then ripped down and remarked in preparation for final construction
Lesson 12	Waistband Lining and Curtains The waistband is lined and the trouser curtains are prepared and attached
Lesson 13	Pick-Stitching and Felling The pockets and fly are pick-stitched before the linings are secured using traditional hand-felling techniques
Lesson 14	Hems and Buttonholes The trouser length is established and the hems completed, followed by the required handmade buttonholes
Lesson 15	Buttons and Final Pressing Buttons are attached and the completed trousers receive their final press, bringing the garment to a finished standard

Week 9	Waistcoat Making: The Savile Row Style
Lesson 1	Cutting, Laying and Inlays The personal waistcoat patterns drafted earlier in the programme are laid onto the cloth and cut, with the appropriate inlays incorporated into the garment
Lesson 2	Pocket Positioning, Linings and Canvas Pocket positions are established before the linings, canvas and other necessary trimmings are cut and prepared for construction
Lesson 3	Mark-Stitching, Seams and Darts The foreparts are mark-stitched before the straight seams and darts are sewn
Lesson 4	Welt Pockets and Canvas Darts Construction of the waistcoat welt pockets, followed by shaping the canvas through the appropriate darts
Lesson 5	Canvassing the Foreparts Once the pockets have been completed, the canvas is positioned and attached to the foreparts using traditional hand-tailoring techniques

Week 10	
Lesson 11	Basting for the Fitting The foreparts and back are basted together to prepare the waistcoat for its fitting
Lesson 12	Fitting: Rip and Remark Students learn how to conduct a waistcoat fitting, assess balance and identify fitting issues before making the necessary corrections. The garment is then ripped down and remarked in preparation for final construction
Lesson 13	Shaping and Taping The front edges are cut to their final shape and secured with bias tape. This introduces an important edge-control technique that students will later encounter in bespoke jacket making
Lesson 14	Padding the Tapes and Pick-Stitching the Pockets The tapes are padded into position and the completed pockets are finished with hand pick-stitching
Lesson 15	Facings Using the traditional method of attaching the facings, the front-edge seams are carefully sewn by hand
Week 11	
Lesson 16	Lining the Foreparts The forepart linings are positioned and basted into the garment with the appropriate fullness before being secured by hand
Lesson 17	Lining the Back The back is lined and the principal sections of the waistcoat are brought together, transforming the individual components into the finished garment
Lesson 18	Pick-Stitching and Finishing The front edges are hand pick-stitched to control the edge and prevent swelling, followed by the remaining finishing work
Lesson 19	Buttons and Handmade Buttonholes Six traditional handmade buttonholes are worked into the front edge before the buttons are positioned and sewn
Lesson 20	Final Pressing The completed waistcoat receives its final press, refining its shape and presentation and preparing the garment to be worn

Full-time Course Syllabus
www.handcrafttailoracademy.com

10 week programme/part 1 block

Week 1	Pattern Drafting: Bespoke Jackets
Lesson 1	Measurements and Figure Assessment Introduction to drafting tools and head units. Students learn how to take the measurements required for bespoke jacket drafting and how to assess the individual figure and its proportions
Lesson 2	Basic Two-Piece Jacket Block: 6" Inch Drop Drafting the basic two-piece jacket block for a figure with a 6-inch chest-to-waist drop
Lesson 3	4" Inch Drop and Sleeve Draft Drafting a jacket for a 4-inch drop figure, together with the corresponding sleeve
Lesson 4	5" Inch Drop and Under-collar Draft Drafting a jacket for a 5-inch drop figure, followed by the construction of the corresponding under-collar pattern
Lesson 5	10" Inch Drop and Facing Draft Drafting for the more athletic 10" inch drop figure and developing the corresponding facing pattern
Week 2	
Lesson 6	9" and 8" Inch Drops Drafting jackets for 9" and 8" inch drop figures, incorporating the sleeve, facing and under-collar patterns
Lesson 7	7" and 3" Inch Drops and False-Forearm Sleeve Drafting jackets for 7" and 3" inch drop figures, together with the false-forearm sleeve draft
Lesson 8	Figuration, Shoulder Angles and Styling An introduction to figuration and its influence on the jacket pattern. Students examine shoulder angles, low shoulders and the principles used to style and develop the foreparts
Lesson 9	Portly Figures: 2" and 1" Inch Drops Drafting bespoke jacket patterns for portly figures with 2" and 1" inch chest-to-waist drops
Lesson 10	Corpulent Figures: 0" Inch and Plus Drops Drafting for corpulent figures, covering 0" inch, plus 1" inch and plus 2" inch chest-to-waist relationships

Week 3	The Art & Science of Fitting Bespoke Jackets
Lesson 1	Drafting from a Jacket Block Students learn how to use an existing jacket block as the foundation for developing an individual bespoke pattern
Lesson 2	Jacket Balance: Front and Back Balance An examination of front and back balance and their effect on the way a jacket hangs on the figure. Students learn how balance is assessed and corrected through the pattern
Lesson 3	Resizing a Jacket Pattern Students learn how to systematically increase or reduce an existing jacket pattern while retaining its proportions and balance
Lesson 4	Drafting for High Shoulders Identifying high-shouldered figures and adapting the jacket pattern to accommodate the figuration
Lesson 5	Drafting for Sloping Shoulders Identifying sloping shoulders and adapting the jacket pattern to achieve the correct balance and fit
Week 4	
Lesson 6	Figure Assessment: Creases at the Front Button Students examine the causes of creasing and distortion around the front buttoning point, learning how to diagnose the underlying fitting problem and make the appropriate pattern correction
Lesson 7	Figure Assessment: Creases at the Back Neck Diagnosing creases at the back neck and understanding their relationship to posture, shoulder angle and jacket balance
Lesson 8	Figure Assessment: Creases at the Back Armhole Identifying the causes of creasing around the back armhole and determining the appropriate alteration to the pattern
Lesson 9	Figure Assessment: Creases at the Front Scye Diagnosing creases and distortion around the front scye and examining how the pattern can be adjusted to accommodate the individual figure
Lesson 10	Figure Assessment: Creases at the Front Waist Identifying the causes of creasing at the front waist and learning how to correct the balance and shape of the jacket through the pattern

Week 5	Independent Study & Workshop Practise
	Week 5 is dedicated to independent study and workshop practice, allowing students to consolidate the pattern drafting and fitting principles developed during the first four weeks. Students will be tasked with drafting a personal bespoke jacket pattern to their own measurements and figuration, applying the principles of balance, shoulder angle and figure assessment covered during the preceding lessons. The completed pattern will be reviewed and checked by the tutor when formal classes resume before being used during the jacket-making stage of the programme. Students are also encouraged to use this week to revise previous drafts and further practise the pattern alterations and fitting remedies introduced during Weeks 3 and 4.

Weeks 6 – 11	Bespoke Jacket Making Menswear or Womenswear Pathway
	Students now bring together the pattern drafting, fitting and handcraft tailoring skills developed throughout the programme through the construction of a complete bespoke jacket. Students may choose to follow either the menswear or womenswear pathway. The personal jacket pattern developed during the preceding weeks forms the basis of the garment, allowing the student to apply the principles of individual pattern cutting, figuration and fitting to an actual bespoke commission. The jacket is constructed over six weeks, comprising 30 days of instruction. During the making process, students undertake fittings of their garments and apply the principles learned during The Art & Science of Fitting Bespoke Jackets, developing the ability to recognise fitting issues on the body and translate the required corrections back to the pattern. The existing Bespoke Jacket Making syllabus remains unchanged.

End of block two