

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.

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