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## High School in Bali

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# High School in Bali

## **Abstract**

In the Indonesian education system, high school is comprised of 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. In their first year of high school, a Balinese student's curriculum might look very similar to an American student's. At this point in their education, the Balinese are still following the national general curriculum, studying mathematics, science, language, and history. During the eleventh and twelfth years of school the Balinese school structure diverges from the American system. Indonesian students must choose one of three areas of study on which to focus for the last two years of high school, a concept similar to a college major. [*excerpt*]

## **Keywords**

Bali, Indonesia, education, high school

## **Disciplines**

Asian Studies | East Asian Languages and Societies | Education | International and Area Studies |  
International and Comparative Education

## **Comments**

This piece is part of the Bali Soundscapes collection, which features photographs, audio essays, and written essays by Gettysburg College students who took the *Language, Culture, & Immigration in Bali* course during the summer of 2013. See <http://cupola.gettysburg.edu/balisoundscapes/> for more.

## High School in Bali

In the Indonesian education system, high school is comprised of 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. In their first year of high school, a Balinese student's curriculum might look very similar to an American student's. At this point in their education, the Balinese are still following the national general curriculum, studying mathematics, science, language, and history. During the eleventh and twelfth years of school the Balinese school structure diverges from the American system. Indonesian students must choose one of three areas of study on which to focus for the last two years of high school, a concept similar to a college major. Students can choose to study *Ilmu Pengetahuan Alam* (IPA), natural sciences; *Ilmu Pengetahuan Sosial* (IPS), social sciences; or *Ilmu Pengetahuan Bahasa* (IPB), language.

Like in the elementary schools, the high school operates from 8am until 12pm, with students taking three classes per day. However, high school students are offered opportunities for extracurricular lessons outside of the normal school day and many opt to take additional classes such as computer science or foreign language. When asked whether they enjoy going to school, the students in Banjar Wani responded with an enthusiastic "Yes!" and seemed surprised that we would need to ask; they view school as an opportunity for bettering themselves and increasing their chances of being successful in life.

To become a teacher in Bali requires three years of education after graduating high school. Like in the United States, elementary school teachers in Bali teach all subject areas to their students while high school teachers specialize in one subject area. The curriculum for schools is developed on a national standard that dictates what will be taught in all schools across the country each day.