

## DESCRIPTION OF THE BAHASA INDONESIA LANGUAGE PROGRAMME

Bahasa Indonesia (BI) is the most widely spoken language in Southeast Asia. It is the official language of the Republic of Indonesia, and closely related varieties of Malay have official status in Singapore, Malaysia, and Brunei. By studying BI/Indonesian, you will be able to communicate with members of hundreds of ethnic groups throughout the region, who use it as a first or second language. Moreover, the ability to communicate in Indonesian is the window to the society and the rich culture of diversified Indonesia.

A whole new cultural world will be open to you throughout the learning experience: from folk tradition to popular culture, from literature to movies to Internet sites. The learning process will be especially gratifying and fruitful because, as a student, you will not be learning in isolation but in a culture where you can make friends and share experiences with each other. The excellence of the teaching-learning process is built upon innovative methods and creative materials development, undertaken by a team of highly dedicated and dynamic teachers, as evident from students' feedback. After two years in the programme, students of Indonesian can expect to communicate and correspond with Indonesian friends, professionals, and officials, as well as read a range of materials in Indonesian.

## STRUCTURE OF THE LANGUAGE PROGRAMME

The Bahasa Indonesia programme consists of six modules at three different levels:

- **Elementary:** Bahasa Indonesia 1 and Bahasa Indonesia 2
- **Intermediate:** Bahasa Indonesia 3 and Bahasa Indonesia 4
- **Advanced:** Bahasa Indonesia 5 and Bahasa Indonesia 6

The BI Programme, in collaboration with the CIT, has successfully completed its comprehensive online audio-based interactive materials – the first of its kind in Indonesian language teaching. The interactive web-based multimedia courseware, designed to promote independent learning, has been used and shared with universities in the U.S. It allows students to access the audio materials and perform self-correcting exercises on their own time, in their own space, and at their own pace, such that learner's autonomy is enhanced.

## TARGET GROUP

In the year 2007/8, the BI language modules were attended by about 280 students per semester, giving us a total of 570 registrations per year. Among these are undergraduate South-East Asian Studies major students, as well as cross-faculty and non-major Arts students.

Students who have had prior experience with BI as a foreign language are welcome to take placement tests at the beginning of each semester to ascertain the appropriate starting level. Please contact [clsjwi@nus.edu.sg](mailto:clsjwi@nus.edu.sg) for further information.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are no special entry requirements for the Bahasa Indonesia language modules. Bahasa Indonesia 1 is available for absolute beginners, i.e., those without formal and/or informal background in Indonesian and/or Malay. The pre-requisite for all modules, except for Bahasa Indonesia 1, is a pass in the previous module. Students who have previously acquired knowledge of the language but do not fulfill the formal pre-requisites may qualify through the placement tests.

## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT EVENTS

1. Annual immersion programme in Indonesia

The four-week programme consists of an intensive course cum family stay at Sanata Dharma University, Yogyakarta. To offer students authentic experiences in language and deeper insights into the culture and how the society operates, various projects requiring direct participation and immersion in the society, institutional visits, lectures and cultural enrichment excursions are incorporated into the programme. You may visit the website at <http://courseware.nus.edu.sg/IM@BIP/SpecialProjects/Immersion/Immersion.htm> for further details.

2. Project-based activities such as cultural night, mini expo, field-trips to various Indonesian institutions in the region.

To maximize learning experience and outcome, the BI programme integrates 'learning by doing' approach and moves students beyond the limitation of traditional classrooms while providing authentic environment. By way of examples, as part of their learning tasks students may have the opportunities to be involved with native speakers in radio broadcast programmes (with Radio Singapore International), intermingle with students in Indonesian schools, interview staff of government and/or business institutions, design a bulletin and/or a Website in the target language, set up mini expo on places, people and cultures of diverse Indonesia, organize performance-based cultural night, etc. Students have found these task-based activities highly rewarding, inspiring, and enriching. You may visit the website <http://courseware.nus.edu.sg/IM@BIP/student.htm> for more information.

## LANGUAGE PROGRAMME'S WEBSITE

Bahasa Indonesia Programme Website: <http://courseware.nus.edu.sg/IM@BIP/>

For enquiries, please contact:

- Ms Johanna Wulansari Istanto at [clsjwi@nus.edu.sg](mailto:clsjwi@nus.edu.sg) or
- Ms Gracie Lim Yi Ling at [clsimg@nus.edu.sg](mailto:clsimg@nus.edu.sg)