

Adam Smith Business School Cultural Digest

JANUARY 2026

WE ARE INTERNATIONAL AT ASBS

LAST SEMESTER: FESTIVE EVENING



With hot chocolate, mince pies, Christmas carols, and a lot of crackers, the international students at ASBS brought on their Festive cheer last December. The atrium buzzed with

community as international students gathered to celebrate festive traditions. With live music from the Music Club, seasonal crafts, and Christmas sweaters, the event created a warm and welcoming atmosphere at ASBS during exam season, marking a joyful start to the festive season. [More on page 2.](#)

AROUND THE WORLD

We know just how diverse our ASBS community is. Here are a few cultural things that our students, staff, and academics might be looking forward to this semester.

- Jan 25th - **Burns Night**
- Feb 17th - **Pancake Day**
- Feb 17th - **Chinese New Year**
- Feb 17th - **First day of Ramadan**
- Feb 17th - **Portuguese Carnival**
- Mar 4th - **Holi**
- April 5th - **Easter Sunday**
- April 14th - **South & South-East Asia New Year**
- May 21st - **World Day for Cultural Diversity**

If you celebrate any of these - or any other events - we hope that you find a way to keep the festivities alive in your home away from home! [Read more on page 2.](#)

THIS SEMESTER: GET INVOLVED @ UOFG

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT WELCOME WEEK



From the 7th to the 24th January, UofG will be buzzing with events from campus tours to socials. All events are free but registration is required.

Find more information on [Welcome Week Events](#)

ASBS SPRING FESTIVAL 2026 CHINESE NEW YEAR



Join us in our Spring Festival Celebrations on **Monday 26th January**. In collaboration with the Confucius Institute, there will be an array of activities to enjoy, including a hot buffet, crafts and calligraphy.

Make sure to [register for your free tickets!](#)

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

International Student Activities Intern

Hi there! I'm Nethmi, the international student activities intern at ASBS, and also the face behind this newsletter.

Being Sri Lankan and growing up in the Middle East before moving to Glasgow, my culture has always been central to my experiences. I bring the music of my people, our food, and our values to every aspect of life, especially as an international student.

My role at ASBS is to bring more social and community-focused opportunities

for international students, including the chance to celebrate cultural festivities like the Chinese New Year and Christmas. I have a great passion for promoting cultural diversity and appreciation, and always make a conscious effort to engage in and honour the cultures around me.

Feel free to reach out to me for any inquiries and contributions at nethmi.jayasundara@glasgow.ac.uk

"I carry my international identity with me everywhere I go"

SEMESTER 1 RECAP
FESTIVE EVENING

"I tried my first Christmas cracker!"



Relive the festive experience as captured by ASBS Student Ambassador, Clara, [here](#).

BOOK RECOMMENDATION



Set in Sri Lanka during the Civil War, the story follows the ghost of a dead photographer; it is a story woven in mythology, historical fiction and politics.



BURNS NIGHT

On the 25th of January, Scotland comes together to celebrate Robert Burns, a distinguished Scottish poet. It is a night to enjoy traditional Scottish music, Ceilidhs, and food. Across the country, there are many ways to get involved in the festivities.

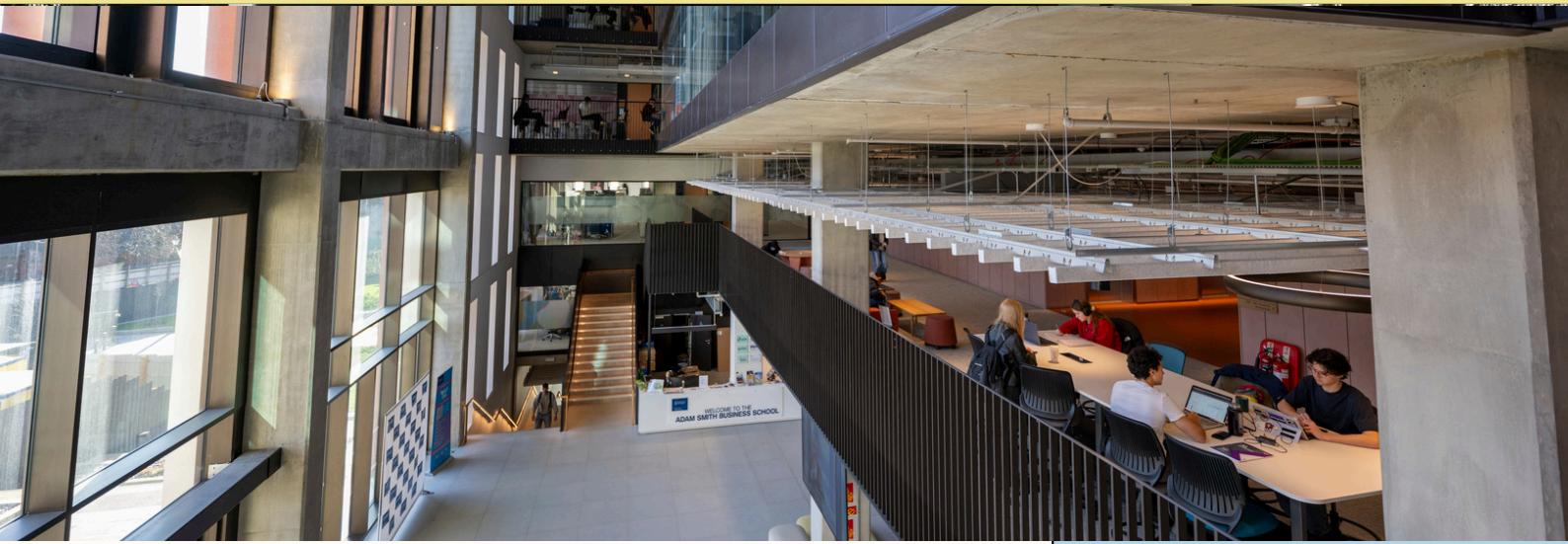
Big Burns Night Celebration

On **Friday 30th January**, the SRC are hosting a night filled with food, music, and poetry in celebration of Robbie Burns' legacy. Taking place in the Hunterian Museum, tickets are £5pp and includes traditional refreshments, Ceilidh dances, and more!

For more details on the event and tickets see [here](#).

Scottish Traditions

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES



“International students are an important part of the university ecosystem...”

ABRAR ALI SAIYED

Senior Lecturer International Business

Born in India, Abrar is a passionate advocate for internationalisation and cultural awareness at ASBS. Raised in a multicultural community, he values cultivating diversity beyond the classroom.

Abrar recalls fondly the sense of community and togetherness he felt back home. Believing that he has a responsibility to bring this to our campus, he has taken a significant interest in cultural education. At the same time, during his time in Glasgow, Abrar has found great appreciation and joy in learning about British culture through celebrations like Christmas and Easter.

Previously, Abrar led an extremely successful and widely enjoyed Iftar Potluck, bringing together a wide range of nationalities across ASBS in celebrating such a significant Islamic tradition. Being pleasantly surprised with the enthusiasm the event received, Abrar is determined to encourage more opportunities for cross-cultural participation at ASBS that integrates students, staff, and academics.



Culture and community through food.

Massava, Byres Rd.

Food is a valuable part of the international experience that help us carry our cultural identity. Bringing Eritrean and Ethiopian cuisine to the West End, Massava introduces food as a community experience: with delicious and well-loved traditional cuisines. Massava is an exquisite new addition to the Glasgow cultural scene, and is a fantastic new place for students to try!

ABDULRAHMAN AL-ANSARI

Business and Economics Student

“As an international student, moving abroad was difficult because it felt like detaching yourself from your culture, your roots, and your family, but finding a strong community allowed me to gain independence and self-confidence. It’s also realizing that unfamiliar places might have reminiscences of your culture, as I found in the Qatar Society and Middle Eastern Society. Finding those societies grounded me while being abroad and helped with home sickness, reminding me of where I came from. To anyone in a new environment, I say branch out and be welcoming to changes and experiences because you’ll find something new about you you haven’t known before. ”

