

Adam Smith Business School Cultural Digest

FEBRUARY 2026

WE ARE INTERNATIONAL AT ASBS

JANUARY: SPRING FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS



On Monday 26th of February, the ASBS Student Experience team, in collaboration with the Confucius Institute, hosted an exciting all-day event for the

Chinese New Year. The Chinese zodiac consists of a 12-year cycle where each year is symbolised by a different animal. This year, the Year of the Horse represents energy, freedom, and independence.

The Confucius Institute guided participants in a range of activities throughout the day, including bookmark-making, calligraphy, and calendar-making workshops.



Students of all backgrounds gathered to celebrate the Lunar New Year traditions with friends and peers, trying their hand at winning pitch-pot games and new crafts.



ASBS student ambassador Ana captured the festivities as the day went on. Keep an eye out on ASBS channels for her vlog!

PANCAKE DAY



17th February
Pancake day (or Shrove Tuesday)

was historically a day to use up rich foods before they were given up for Lent. The tradition is shared across the UK, however Scottish practices evolved from 'Bannock Nights' (with savoury oatmeal bannocks - a type of heavy, scone-like flat bread) to sweet pancakes with lemon and sugar in the modern day.

To do on Pancake Day: dinner pancakes (savoury with meats) and dessert pancakes (with lemon, sugar, and syrups).

VALENTINE'S IN GLASGOW



From dinner plans, to drinks, and flowers, read The Tab's take on Valentine's Day in Glasgow on a student budget [here](#).

Scottish Traditions

AROUND THE WORLD



CHINESE NEW YEAR



17th February 2026

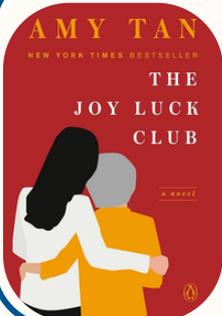
The Lunar New Year, lasting 16 days, culminates with the Lantern Festival at the beginning of March. This New Year marks the transition from the Year of the Snake to the Year of the Horse. Read more about the zodiac animals [here](#).

International Mother Language Day

21st February 2026

A global observance dedicated to promoting cultural diversity in linguistic awareness.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION



A story of four Chinese mothers and their American-born daughters who come together to share stories and play mahjong. Tackling the complexities of family and the identity of being an immigrant, this book explores sacrifice and the struggle to be understood.



RAMADAN

17th February 2026

Ramadan is a sacred month in the Islamic lunar calendar. Muslims practice fasting during this period. It is a time for spiritual reflection and devotion, and a chance to practice self-discipline. Ramadan culminates with the celebration of Eid al-Fitr. Keep up for details on our ASBS Iftar event this March!



PORTUGESE CARNIVAL

17th February 2026

The Carnival originated as a celebratory festival before Lent with feasts, music, and vibrant costumes. It is the biggest Portugese festival of the year. Keep up with the [Portugese-Speaking Society](#) for more details on events!

Culture and community through food:

Kochchi, Ruthven Lane

Kochchi has reintroduced Sri Lankan cuisine to the West End, following on from its popular spot in Edinburgh's Bonnie and Wild markets.

Two childhood friends bring to Glasgow a story of an island that is rich in flavour. As well as staying true to Sri Lankan street food styles, the restaurant offers a late-night spot with an homage to their homeland in the form of cocktails and tropical drinks. Try out new dishes, both unfamiliar and comforting, a true taste of Colombo with...

"the colour and bustle of its markets, and the spirit of food cooked fresh and fast."

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES



AYUSH GARG

Student Representative Council - Vice President Education

Hi, I'm Ayush Garg, an ASBS international Indian student and now the VP Education at the SRC. My journey began as a postgraduate college convenor and grew through being involved in many clubs and societies across the university. Pushing myself out of my comfort zone, from those awkward first conversations to building friendships for life, has shaped who I am today. Navigating a new culture while holding on to my own has taught me the importance of meaningful cultural opportunities on campus. I miss the festivals and food



from home; the small traditions that keep you grounded. I'd love to see more student-led cultural exchanges and cross-cultural events that help us learn from one another. I now know so much about Spanish food, music, and culture that I may never have experienced otherwise. I hope my story encourages others to share theirs, and I encourage all international students to make the most of uni life, and go to as many cultural events as you can.

Read more about Ayush's role [here](#).



Dr XIANG LI

Senior Lecturer in Management and Professional Development; School Director for Internationalisation

As an international student alumna herself, Xiang is very passionate about leveraging the School's international networks and providing students with plethora of opportunities to enhance their international perspectives and global employability. Xiang notes that the university has students from over 149 countries, each of whom bring a wealth of knowledge and experience from their own cultures. Xiang enjoys learning from her students and colleagues,

"Understanding and being respectful for different cultures is... pivotal for everyone"

finding it insightful to be constantly exposed to the different languages and cultures around her. In turn, Xiang finds it important to introduce her own Chinese traditions to others in the form of sharing homemade food and teaching friends at the School.

Encouraged by the rise in international activities at ASBS, Xiang calls for more student involvement in making the School a more inclusive learning environment.

Xiang offers one big piece of advice to students: while you are at ASBS, take advantage of all the fantastic opportunities for travel and study abroad trips, including summer schools. It is an invaluable chance to get to know new people and extend your international network, opening doors to not just your academic and professional development, but also to a much wider world. If you are interested, see [here](#) for ASBS Go Abroad news and opportunities.