

Adam Smith Business School Cultural Digest

MARCH 2026

WE ARE INTERNATIONAL AT ASBS



WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH?

HOLI MARCH 4

A vibrant Hindu 'festival of colours', Holi is celebrated as a welcome to spring and new life. Involving two days of festivities, bonfire rituals on Holika Dahan are followed by Rangwali Holi where groups enjoy playing with gulal (coloured powders).



ST. PARTICK'S DAY MARCH 17

St. Paddy's Day is an annual commemoration of the patron saint of Ireland. It is a celebration of Irish culture and heritage. While it has roots in religious feasts, it has changed overtime into celebratory parades, wearing green, enjoying music and drinks!



EID AL-FITR MARCH 20

The 'Festival of Breaking the Fast' marks the end of Ramadan, a month-long dawn-to-dusk fast practising in Islam. Traditions vary by culture, ranging from buying new clothes, to offering fruits (like dates), to decorating in bright lights, and gathering as a community.



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

[Glasgow Indians Association](#) opens their doors to everyone to come celebrate the Festival of Colors.

- 📅 7th March
- 👤 Free entry
- 📍 Kent Ground, G3 7BB

HOLI

St. Paddy's is often celebrated widely in Glasgow's pubs and student unions as a social day filled with food, drinks, and music! See:

- ★ [Glasgow University Union events.](#)
- ★ [Queen Margaret Union events.](#)

ST. PADDY'S

Adam Smith Business school students, along with senior lecturer Dr Abrar Ali Saiyed, are hosting an Iftar evening for the ASBS student community. Keep an eye out for more details!

- 📅 Wednesday 11th March
- 👤 Free registration
- 📍 Business School Hot House

IFTAR

Interested in contributing to the ASBS Cultural Digest or the international student experience?

Let us know! Email: Nethmi.Jayasundara@glasgow.ac.uk

AROUND THE WORLD

RAMADAN



During the month of Ramadan, taking place between 17th/18th February to the 18th of March this year, Muslims practice fasting during daylight hours (dusk-to-dawn). Ramadan marks the month the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.



Did you know that Muslim students are the second largest demographic in higher education? They make up for 11% of the student population.



Louise Taylor and Fatima Malik, from Oxford Brookes University, recently presented their evidence-based guide on supporting students during Ramadan, which can be found [here](#).

How are students' academics impacted?

It is important to consider where potential shifts to student life may arise during Ramadan which may impact their academic engagements. During this month, students may experience disrupted sleep due to prayers, might be more fatigued, and might shift priorities towards faith and away from academics.

How can inclusive practices be improved during Ramadan?

- Acknowledge Ramadan: make it known that there is awareness around their faith and how fasting may impact them. Raise awareness and celebrate.
- Always ask: each individual is different in their practice; it is always best to ask how someone can be accommodated.
- Offer asynchronous learning: to accommodate for conflicting schedules.

Culture and community through food:

Goat in the Tree, Park Rd

Introducing Glasgow to the diverse and vibrant flavors of Morocco, Goat in the Tree celebrates the wide range of dishes across Moroccan regions. Moroccan food is rich in spices and aromatic herbs. The restaurant prioritises tradition and authenticity, drawing from old recipes that have been passed across generations. For those unfamiliar with the Moroccan food landscape, some popular dishes include dip-style dishes like Hummus (with chickpeas), Zaalouk (with aubergine), and others like Merguez (grilled sausages) and couscous (aromatic wheat granules served with a mix of delicious meats and vegetables).



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH 8TH

IWD has been around since 1911, commemorating the fight for equality, celebrating women's achievements, raising awareness, and promoting action against discrimination.

IWD is a public holiday parts of Eurasia, Europe, Asia, and Africa. The UN marks this day with a theme or campaign; this year the theme is *Balance the Scales*. A promise that every girl holds the right to shape their lives with safety, fairness, and freedom. Read [here](#) for more on IWD and opportunities to get involved!

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES



“be brave, open, and curious”

SHREYA HASIN HAQUE

*Student - MRes Management
Neurodiversity Support Intern*

More than anything else, my experience living abroad has influenced my curiosity. Every new location has challenged me to immerse myself, both intellectually and culturally. Entering new places felt like an invitation, and not so much a loss, because I've always enjoyed learning about different culture's cuisines and traditions.



While in Glasgow, that admiration coupled with pure curiosity. I discovered delight in embracing the joy of a Ceilidh dance and developed a fondness for haggis, both of which were first entirely foreign to me. Rather than distancing me from my identity, these events deepened my sense of belonging.

What I've learned about identity as an international postgraduate student at the University of Glasgow is that it evolves and grows; it is important that, in this

process, you are brave and open. You keep all of your uniqueness when you give yourself to different cultures while gaining a beautiful new journey. Even more, you gain self-assurance, a wider worldview, and a better ability to share and hear stories.



Alumni UK is the largest global network of UK international students. Launched by the British Council, membership is free and open doors to a range of opportunities including masterclasses, networking events, and resources. Read [here](#) for more information on events and how to get involved!

BOOK RECOMMENDATION White Tiger - Aravind Adiga

Winner of the Man Booker Prize 2008, *The White Tiger* takes a very dark yet engaging perspective of India's class system and social hierarchy. Metaphors create vivid imagery of the struggles of people as they navigate the realities of their lives in the landscape of an unforgiving, bleak, and complex world. It is a satirical story told retrospectively by a notorious village-boy-turned-businessman who rises from servitude. In an epistolary narration, Balram narrates his story to a Chinese official, detailing his escape of the 'Rooster Coop' that trapped him in poverty through traversing the dark side of capitalism.

