Eid al-Fitr

Eid al-Fitr, also called the “Festival of Breaking the Fast”, is a religious holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide that marks the end of the month-long dawn-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan; it takes place the first day after Ramadan. This religious Eid is the only day in the month of Shawwal during which Muslims are not permitted to fast.

Date
- Eid al-Fitr begins on the first day after Ramadan and it ends 1 to 3 days later depending on the country; it is based on the Islamic calendar.
- Check the Calendar Index for Religious Holidays during the current academic year for the exact date.

Greetings
To recognize the Eid with colleagues or friends, you can say, “Eid Mubarak”, the Arabic greeting which means “blessed Eid.”

Common Practices and Celebrations
- In preparation to celebrate, people clean their homes and decorate them with colorful lanterns and ornaments.
- Families get together for a feast on the first day of the celebration after prayer.
- Lavish banquets are repeated throughout the celebration that includes many sweet foods.
- Celebrants devise themselves to prayer and visit their local mosque.
- It is common for celebrants to bathe and put on brand new outfits.
- Muslims shower their loved ones with gifts.

Common Dietary Restrictions
- Many Muslims follow halal food guidelines, meaning food that is permissible by Islamic standards.
- Vegetarian meals prepared without alcohol meet halal standards.

Impact to U-M Community
- Muslim colleagues and students may request to take the first day of the celebration off. Colleagues and remote students in Muslim countries will likely have a national holiday.
- Link to U-M Guidance Regarding Conflicts.

U-M Campus Resources
- Maize Pages - Muslim, U-M
- Association of Religious Counselors, U-M

Information Sources
- Time and Date - holidays

Photo credit:
"Eid Mubarak 2013" by Philippe Vieux-Jeanton is marked with CC0 1.0