Ideefase: Simple Recipe Maker for Students on a Budget

With maximum 3 ingredients for more variety of dishes!

Hi! My name is Lily and I've been living alone in the EU since the summer of 2019. When I moved out of my home country, one of the biggest changes was having to cook for myself. As a student, I often found myself standing in the kitchen thinking, "What can I even make with what I have?" – especially when money and time are limited.

That's why I want to build a small web application to help students like me find easy, budget-friendly meals with just three ingredients.

While building this app, I hope to learn how to work with APIs, how to show data in a nice and clear way, and how to make a responsive layout using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. I also want to practice writing clean code and learn how to solve small bugs by myself. This project will help me build a strong foundation for front-end development.

This app could also help many other students who feel overwhelmed by cooking. Not everyone knows how to cook or plan meals, especially when they are new to living on their own. By giving simple ideas with just a few ingredients, this app can make daily cooking easier, reduce food waste, and help students stay on budget without stress.

-The 4 Functionalities of My Web Application are:

1. User Registration and Login
Users can create an account and log in using the NOVI backend. This ensures secure access to the application and allows personalized features in the future.
(Note: this uses the internal NOVI backend API and is a required base feature.)

2. Search Recipes Based on Ingredients
Users can enter up to three ingredients they already have. The app sends this data to the Spoonacular API, which returns matching recipes. These recipes are displayed with titles, short descriptions, and images in the overview page.

3. View Full Recipe Instructions on a Separate Page
When users click on a recipe, they are navigated to a new page in the application. There, the app shows full cooking instructions, ingredients, and prep time — fetched from the Spoonacular API using the recipe's ID.

4. "Surprise Me" Button for Random Recipes
If users don't enter any ingredients, they can click a "Surprise Me" button. The app uses the Spoonacular API to return three random recipes. This feature is helpful for students who don't know what to cook.

How an API Works (Visual Explanation)

Requests data

Sends data

FRONTEND

API

BACKEND