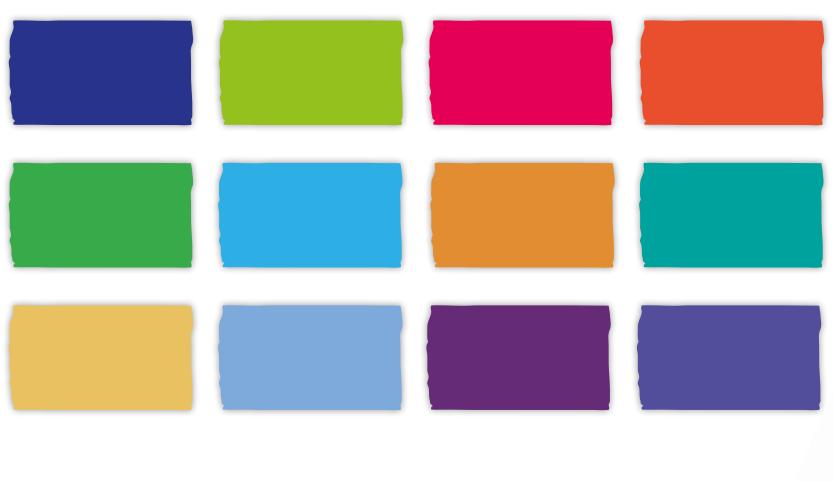






CLICK THE MENU TO EXPLORE THE INTERACTIVE GUIDE!



## INTRODUCTION

Getting enough protein is important for everyone, but especially for those with a healthy, active lifestyle. Protein contributes to the maintenance of your muscles, including your heart (yes, it's a muscle too!).¹ But it's not just the amount you eat that matters, the TYPES OF PROTEIN FOODS you eat also have an important role to play in managing your cholesterol levels.²

Many animal proteins, such as red and processed meats and full fat dairy products can be high in **saturated fat**. Too much saturated fat can raise cholesterol levels. Eating less of those protein foods which are high saturated fat and more healthy plant and other alternative proteins can help lower saturated fat intakes. This, in turn, helps to maintain normal blood cholesterol levels while still ensuring enough protein for an active lifestyle.<sup>3</sup> Plant and other alternative sources of protein can also provide fibre and other nutrients that are important for health.

The <u>Ultimate Cholesterol Lowering Plan@</u> is a flexible 3-step dietary approach that is not only effective at lowering cholesterol levels, but the advice is ideal for anyone looking to improve their overall health and fitness. This guide explores <u>Step 2</u> of the UCLP@ which tackles the importance of selecting the right protein foods to help lower saturated fats and how this is also important to support muscle health.



# WHAT IS PROTEIN?

Protein is the body's building block. Protein makes and maintains all the body's cells including those which make up muscles, organs, bones, cartilage, skin and blood as well as enzymes, hormones and antibodies.

### WHAT ARE AMINO ACIDS?

Amino acids are the building blocks of protein. There are 20 amino acids in the human body that combine to make hundreds of different proteins. Nine of these are essential amino acids, meaning your body cannot make them and you can only obtain them from the food and drink you consume.

# ANIMAL VS PLANT PROTEINS - WHATS THE DIFFERENCE?

Dietary proteins that have all nine essential amino acids in proportions closely matched to the body's requirements include animal foods, such as meat, fish, eggs and dairy products, several plant and alternative protein foods, such as soya products, quinoa, chia and hemp seeds as well as meat alternatives like Quorn mycoprotein. Other plant foods, such as beans, lentils, peas, grains, vegetables, nuts and seeds may contain smaller amounts of one or more essential amino acids, but it's still easy to get them if you eat a variety of protein sources across the day.



CHOLESTEROL ISN'T SOMETHING YOU ONLY NEED TO THINK ABOUT WHEN YOU ARE OLDER.

29% of 25-34 year olds and 45% of 35-44 year olds have high cholesterol levels

BUT MOST DON'T KNOW THEY HAVE IT BECAUSE IT DOESN'T USUALLY HAVE ANY SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS.





### HOW MUCH PROTEIN DO YOU NEED?

A daily intake of **0.75g** of protein per kg of a healthy body weight is recommended for moderately active adults. So, a person weighing **60kg** would require about **45g** a day. This can increase to 1.2 to 2g protein per kg of body weight a day if you're a regular exerciser or very physically active. Additionally, as we get older, our protein requirements also increase to 1-1.2g protein per kg of body weight.

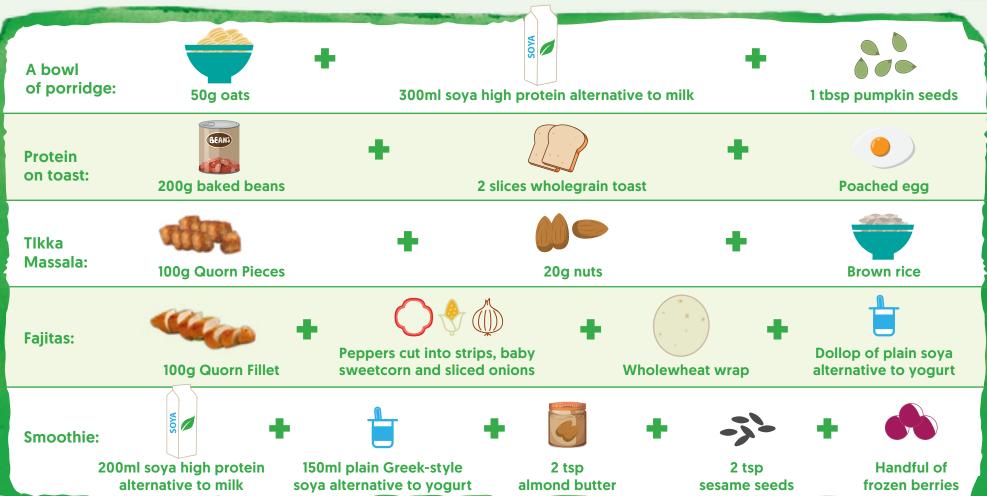


Distributing protein throughout the day, aiming to eat similar amounts in each meal, is a good way to ensure your body is able to use the protein you are consuming.



#### 20g protein at each meal is ideal & easy to achieve

Around 20g of protein at every meal plus a protein-rich snack every day is a good target to aim for.





# HOW MUCH EXERCISE TO HELP KEEP OUR HEARTS HEALTHY?

To keep your heart healthy your body needs adequate amounts of exercise as well as a healthy diet.<sup>5</sup>

# THE UK CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICERS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY GUIDELINES RECOMMEND AT LEAST



150 MINUTES
PER WEEK
(OR FIVE X 30 MINUTES)
OF ACTIVITIES THAT LEAVE
YOU MILDLY OUT OF BREATH
AND SLIGHTLY SWEATY



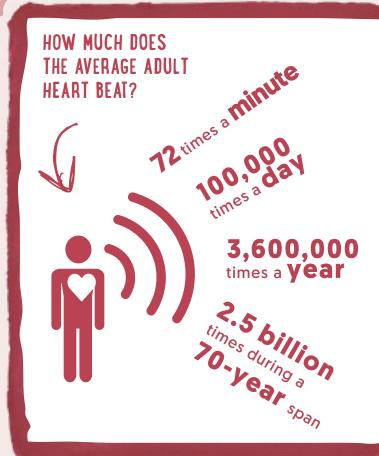
75 MINUTES

PER WEEK
OF VIGOROUS ACTIVITY
which gets you out of
breath e.g., running, stair
climbing or sports, or
a combination of both
such as walking, jogging,
swimming or dancing.



TWO DAYS
A WEEK
MUSCLE-STRENGTHENING
EXERCISE TO PREVENT LOSS OF
MUSCLE MASS WITH AGE.
This may include lifting

This may include lifting weights, using resistance bands or exercises like squats, press ups and lunges that use your own bodyweight.





#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Your heart is the centre of the cardiovascular system and is crucial for pumping blood around the body, supplying oxygen and nutrients to the tissues and removing carbon dioxide and other wastes.

# CAN YOU GET ENOUGH PROTEIN JUST FROM FOOD?

Most of us. whether doing regular exercise or not, get more than enough protein from food and have little difficulty meeting the recommended intake. According to the latest statistics from the government's National Diet and Nutrition Survey, the average daily protein intake is 66g for women and 88g for men, roughly one and a half times more than we need.



# FINDING BALANCE, CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPES OF PROTEIN

#### A better fat balance

Many people get more protein than they need especially when it comes to animal proteins such as red and processed meat which can be high in saturated fat and salt.

Eating too much saturated fat can lead to raised LDL-cholesterol levels (also known as 'bad' cholesterol) in your blood, which is not good for heart health.

Replacing some or all of the animal proteins that are high in saturated fat with healthful plant and other alternative proteins will help reduce your saturated fat intake and contribute to maintaining a normal cholesterol level as part of a healthy balanced diet and lifestyle.<sup>2</sup>

### **Boosting fibre intakes**

Plant and other alternative protein foods, such as Quorn mycoprotein and soya, are a great way to add more fibre to the diet, as they contain both fibre and protein.



HEALTHY PLANT AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE **SOURCES OF PROTEIN include soya** products such as tofu, edamame beans and sova plant-based drinks and alternatives to yogurt, Quorn mycoprotein, pulses (beans, lentils and peas), nuts and seeds.

RED MEAT includes beef, lamb and goat. Processed meat is meat that has been salted, cured, smoked, or blended to make ham, bacon, beef jerky, corned beef, salami, pepperoni, and hot dogs.

# DID YOU KNOW?

#### **LESS THAN 1 IN 10 ADULTS IN THE UK EAT ENOUGH FIBRE!**

Opting for wholegrain starchy foods such as oats and wholewheat products is another way of adding more fibre to our diet which can help with gut health.

Oats and barley provide a specific type of fibre called beta-glucan. This fibre, as part of a balanced and varied diet and lifestyle, can help to lower blood cholesterol levels which help to support heart health! 6,7





### Top tips to get you started

- ★ Ease into plant-based meals by going meat-free one day a week.
- ★ Use soya drinks on your cereals, in tea and coffee and in cooking just as you would dairy milk. Soya alternatives to yogurt are now available in plain, Greek-style and fruit varieties.
- ★ Make small changes to your daily food choices rather than overhauling your whole diet at once. Try adding one new plant protein to your repertoire every week e.g. a small handful of nuts daily or a soya alternative to yogurt as a snack, try a new bean or lentil - adding to salads, stews.
- ★ Part or fully replace meat in recipes with meat substitutes such as Quorn Mince, Fillets or Pieces. They can often save you lots of time in the kitchen.
- ★ Adapt your favourite meals by replacing some or all of the meat in dishes like stews, Bolognese and curries with foods such as beans, lentils, soya mince, tofu, tempeh or Quorn mycoprotein.

#### **HOW MUCH RED MEAT SHOULD YOU BE EATING PER WEEK?**



The NHS recommends limiting red and processed meat. Reducing your intake of red and processed meats will not only benefit your health but is also good for the environment.

- ★ A single serve is no more than: 110g raw or 70g cooked.
- ★ Remove visible fat before cooking and choose lean cuts of meat.
- ★ Try to limit processed meats because these are generally higher in saturated fat and often high in salt too.
- ★ Aim for at least one meat-free day per week.
- ★ Fully or partly replace meat in recipes with any combination of soya mince, tofu, beans, pulses, nuts and Quorn mycoprotein.



# PLANT PROTEINS TO MANAGE YOUR CHOLESTEROL & SUPPORT YOUR MUSCLE HEALTH



There are many plant proteins and alternative proteins that are low in saturated fat.

#### → Nuts and seeds



Whether you add them to your cereal or porridge, toss a handful in your stir-fry or have nut butter on toast, nuts and seeds are an easy way to increase your protein intake. Nuts also give you fibre, vitamins, minerals and unsaturated fats. Aim for a handful (28-30g) nuts including peanuts a day.

- ★ Nuts make for a quick, delicious snack and are a great alternative to less healthy snacks like crisps, chocolate and biscuits.
- ★ Top your porridge with toasted almonds.
- ★ Toss walnuts through a leafy salad.
- ★ Scatter crushed pistachios over fruited soya alternative to yogurt.
- \* Add almonds or cashews to stir-fries.
- ★ Use peanut butter to thicken soups and smoothies or have on wholemeal toast for a satisfying snack (check the label for no added palm oil or salt).

#### → Pulses



Eating more pulses (beans, chickpeas, lentils and peas) is a great way to boost your protein intake, along with fibre, iron and B vitamins. Including more pulses in your diet in place of meat will help reduce your saturated fat intake which contributes to maintaining normal cholesterol levels<sup>2</sup>. Beans and lentils are a great source of fibre and we recommend you include a daily serving of at least 125g, 6 tablespoons, half a large can or a small can.

- ★ Mix a tin of chickpeas or black beans with roasted vegetables.
- ★ Enjoy dahl with a chapati or rice for a main meal.
- ★ Falafel are great as sandwich or wrap filling or eaten with hummus.
- ★ Eat roasted chickpeas as a snack on-the-go (see recipe on p14).
- ★ Add a spoonful of hummus to sandwiches and wraps, to top baked potatoes or a topping for dishes such as veggie chilli or nachos.
- ★ Use beans and lentils to replace or bulk out the meat in pasta sauces, lasagne, moussaka and curries.
- ★ Add beans or lentils to soups.



#### Quorn mycoprotein: Quorn Mince, Pieces and Fillets



Quorn mycoprotein as well as being high in protein, is also high in fibre and low in saturated fat. If you enjoy classic dishes with meat-style alternatives, then this is a great choice.

- ★ Fully or partly substitute Quorn Mince for meat in chilli con carne, cottage pie, tacos, burgers, lasagne and moussaka.
- ★ Mix Quorn Pieces with roasted vegetables and pesto sauce, use in a curry or add to salads and Buddha bowls.
- ★ Substitute Quorn Pieces for chicken in paella, stir-fries, stews and curries.
- ★ Use Quorn Fillets to replace chicken breasts in recipes or cut into strips and use in fajitas and tacos.

#### WHAT IS MYCOPROTEIN?

Mycoprotein is a meat substitute that is produced by fermenting a natural, edible fungus with carbohydrate and other nutrients as a food source. It is widely available under the brand name Quorn, offering many varieties including Quorn Mince, Quorn Pieces and Quorn Fillets. They can be used in the same way as other protein-rich foods to make pasta dishes, stews, curries and stir fries. Like soya, Quorn mycoprotein is a high-quality protein food providing all nine essential amino acids. Additionally, it is a rich source of fibre, zinc, folate and manganese.

#### → Soya plant-based drinks



Soya alternatives to milk are naturally low in saturated fat and high in protein. The protein content and quality is comparable to that of dairy milk. Leading brands of soya drinks are standardly fortified with calcium and many also fortify with vitamins B2, B12 and D (always check the label - organic drinks will not be fortified).

- ★ Enjoy with coffee or tea.
- ★ Use when making your batter for pancakes.
- ★ Use when making porridge or pour over your breakfast cereal.
- ★ Use in cooking for white sauces, in soups, custards etc.
- ★ Try adding to smoothies.

### Soya plant-based alternatives to yogurt





Soya alternatives to yogurt are naturally low in saturated fat and rich in protein. The protein level and quality is comparable to dairy yogurts. Great for use in cooking, in smoothies, in place of soured cream, and served with fruit for a dessert.

- ★ Delicious with some strawberries (or any other fruit of your choice) and chopped nuts and seeds for some added sweetness and crunch.
- ★ Great as an alternative to soured cream with fajitas.
- ★ Use with your favourite curry or chilli.
- \* Add to smoothies.
- ★ Use to make overnight oats.
- ★ Can be used in baking.

Soya is one of the richest plant sources of protein and contains all the essential amino acids you need for building muscle. Naturally low in saturated fat, soya foods when consumed in place of higher saturated fat animal foods can contribute to the maintenance of normal cholesterol levels as part of a healthy diet and lifestyle.

#### Chia and hemp seeds



These also contain all nine essential amino acids. They also provide fibre and plant-based omega-3 fats (alpha-linolenic acid-ALA), iron, zinc, calcium and magnesium.

#### **EDAMAME BEANS**

Edamame beans are young soya beans and provide high levels of all nine essential amino acids your body needs. A 100g serving contains 13g of protein.

#### → Tofu and Tempeh



Tofu is pressed soya bean curd, and calcium-set varieties are high in calcium. Tempeh is also made from soya beans but is fermented with a live culture, producing a denser, chewier texture. It contains more protein than tofu and is also a good source of fibre.

- ★ Use firm tofu instead of chicken for stir-fries.
- ★ Extra-firm tofu can be cut into cubes or slices for frying, grilling or baking.
- ★ Blend silken tofu into smoothies, desserts, sauces and dips.

There's 13-18 g of protein in a 100g serving of tofu and 21g in 100g tempeh.





#### → Oil-rich fish



Oil-rich fish include herring, mackerel, pilchards, salmon, sardines, swordfish and trout. They are rich in omega-3 fats, which contribute to the normal function of the heart, as well as many vitamins and minerals. Oil-rich fish is one of the few foods that provide us with vitamin D which, as part of a varied balanced diet and lifestyle, supports normal muscle and immune function. All varieties are a good source of protein. The NHS recommends two portions of fish a week, at least one of which should be oil-rich.

To ensure there are enough fish to eat now and in the future, try to buy fish from sustainable sources.

- ★ Add salmon to a salad or sandwich.
- ★ Enjoy baked fish parcels wrap in foil or parchment with sliced vegetables then bake in the oven.
- ★ Include it in pasta dishes or tacos.
- ★ Make fish into a patty or fishcake. Enjoy with salad or in between a bun.

Plant foods such as rapeseed (standard vegetable) oil, flax, hemp and chia seeds and walnuts also provide omega-3 fats known as alpha-linolenic acid (ALA). ALA, as part of a healthy balanced diet, contributes to the maintenance of normal blood cholesterol levels.

	TO MAKE	PART OR FULLY REPLACE	FOR	
	Bolognese	Mince	<b>→</b>	Lentils, crumbled tempeh or Quorn Mince or soya mince
	Burgers	Beef	<b>→</b>	Soya mince/Quorn Mince or 50/50 with mashed beans
	Chilli	Mince	<b>→</b>	Beans and Quorn Mince
١	Shepherd's or cottage pie	Mince	<b>→</b>	Lentils and soya mince or Quorn Mince
1	Burritos	Mince	<b>→</b>	Mashed beans
12	Stir-fries and curries	Cubed meat	<b>→</b>	Cubed firm tofu or Quorn Pieces
1	Salads, stews and soups	Cubed meat	<b>→</b>	Beans
7	Coffee, tea, porridge and other cereal, in cooking such as pancakes, white sauces	Full fat dairy milk	<b>→</b>	Fortified soya plant-based drink
	Overnight oats, in smoothies or as a dessert served with fruit and nuts	Full fat yogurt and Greek-style yogurt	<b>→</b>	Fortified soya alternative to yogurt: plain or fruited
	In cooking as an accompaniment e.g., curries and fajitas, yogurt bowls, desserts – topped with nuts and seeds	Crème Fraiche, soured cream and other creams	<b>→</b>	Fortified Greek-style and plain soya alternative to yogurt
	Cakes	Eggs	<b>→</b>	Chia seeds + water

Eggs

Crumbled tofu



Scrambled eggs

# PROTEIN MYTHS

You can't get enough protein from plants and other alternative sources
You can easily get plenty of protein from a varied whole-food plant-based diet. Pulses, soya products, whole grains, nuts, seeds and Quorn mycoprotein are protein sources. Eating a variety of plant and alternative protein sources is key to meeting your dietary needs.

You can't build muscle on a plant-based diet
There is no difference between

There is no difference between animal, plant and alternative proteins when it comes to building muscle and strength. Plant and alternative protein foods will build muscle as long as you consume enough protein and calories to match your needs and do regular resistance training.

You need to combine
plant protein at each meal
Plant and alternative proteins do not need
to be combined in each meal in order to
achieve an adequate intake of essential
amino acids. The body has a pool of
amino acids, which it draws upon as
needed. As long as you consume a variety
of proteins over the course of a day your
body will get all the protein it needs.

# EATING THE RIGHT BALANCE OF PROTEINS WITH THE UCLP©

The UCLP© is a flexible **3-step plan** for managing cholesterol developed by HEART UK. It is based on a low saturated fat foundation diet, with the inclusion of four plant foods which can further support normal cholesterol levels.

► <u>Ultimate Cholesterol Lowering Plan</u>

#### **STEP 1: Getting motivated**

Getting into the right mindset is important to help you succeed with making changes to your eating habits. You have to feel ready, and have clear, strong reasons for making the change.

STEP 2: Healthy foundations focuses on replacing saturated fat with unsaturated fat. Once the right balance of fats are achieved, the flexible plan allows you to choose which other improvements you would like to make to your diet. The options include oil-rich fish, improving wholegrain intakes, achieving at least 5-a-day and reducing foods and drinks high in fat, salt and sugars. The plan encourages you to make one change at a time, at your own pace.

**STEP 3: The four UCLP© foods** are introduced once the foundation diet is optimised. You can choose to add just one or all of the foods to your diet: soya foods and alternatives to dairy, beta-glucans from oats and barley, nuts and foods fortified with sterols or stanols.



# MEAL IDEAS TO KEEP YOUR SATURATED FATS DOWN AND YOUR PROTEIN LEVELS UP!



**BANANA AND BERRY PORRIDGE** 

Serves 1

Porridge made with 50g oats and 300ml soya plant-based drink and topped with 2 tbsp walnuts, a small sliced banana and a handful of berries of your choice (fresh or frozen).



#### BREAKFAST **SMOOTHIE**

Serves 1

Blitz 2 handfuls baby spinach, ½ banana, 1 tbsp oats and 250ml soya alternative to milk, 1 tsp nut butter (of choice) and 1 tsp honey or agave syrup in a blender.



#### BLACKBERRY AND APPLE **OVERNIGHT OATS**

Serves 1

Mix together 40g oats with 75ml soya alternative to milk and 100g plain soya alternative to yogurt and 1 tsp honey (optional) in a bowl or screw top glass jar. Top with 80g blackberries (fresh or frozen), a few thin **apple slices** and a small handful of pistachios or flaked almonds. Cover and put in the fridge overnight.



#### RASPBERRY AND MUESLI **YOGURT BOWL**

Serves 1

Add 1 tbsp plain Greek-style soya alternative to yogurt to a bowl, top with a few rasberries, a sprinkle of pomegranate seeds and 1 tbsp muesli. Repeat the layers once more, drizzle with a little **honey** to serve.

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QUINOA AND EDAMAME SALAD

Serves 2

Combine ½ pouch (125g) readyto-eat quinoa, 80g edamame beans, ½ red pepper (deseeded and diced), 12 baby plum tomatoes (halved), 2 spring onions (finely sliced) and 1 tbsp French dressing.



FALAFEL AND HUMMUS WRAP

Serves 1

Spread 2 tbsp (50g) hummus down the middle of a wholemeal tortilla/wrap, arrange 3 falafels, half a red pepper cut into strips, a few slices of tomato and a few thin slices of red onion on top. Add a handful of baby spinach. Then fold in the two sides and roll up tightly.



SALMON, WALNUT AND LENTIL BOWL

Serves 1

Combine 125g (half a 250g pouch) ready-cooked puy lentils with a chopped spring onion, a few halved cherry tomatoes, ¼ red pepper (finely chopped) and 1 tbsp French dressing. Top with a grilled salmon fillet.



# CARROT AND CORIANDER SOUP WITH CHICKPEAS

Serves 2

Fry 1 small finely chopped onion in 1 tbsp oil, add 1 crushed garlic clove and cook for 5 mins. Add 2 carrots (sliced), 1 small potato (chopped) and 500ml reduced salt vegetable stock, bring to the boil and simmer for 15 mins, stir in 150g soya plain alternative to yogurt and bring back to the boil. Allow to cool for a few mins. Drain and rinse **chickpeas** from a 400g can and add them to the soup before blending until smooth using a hand-held blender or liquidiser. Serve with a sprinkle of chopped fresh coriander and a spoonful of plain soya yogurt alternative swirled on top wholegrain bread.

#### **POST-EXERCISE SNACKS**

#### **Peanut Butter Protein Balls**

Combine equal quantities of oats and peanut butter in a bowl. Add ½ of the weight in chocolate chips. Mix in a splash of soya plant based drink until the mixture holds together.
Roll into small balls and keep them in the fridge

#### **Roasted chickpeas**

Toss one tin [400g] drained **chickpeas** with 1 tablespoon **olive oil**, 2 teaspoons **curry powder**, **freshly ground pepper**, spread out on a baking tray and roast at 190 C for 20 – 25 minutes until crispy, giving the tray a shake halfway through.

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# CHICKPEA, CAULIFLOWER AND BUTTERNUT SQUASH CURRY

Serves 2

Fry 1 finely chopped onion in 1 tbsp olive oil for 3 mins, add a crushed garlic clove and 1 tbsp curry paste, cook for 1 min then add 200g butternut squash (cut into 1 cm dice) and a handful of cauliflower florets, a 400g can chopped tomatoes, a 400g can chickpeas or other beans of your choice and 100ml water. Bring to boil, simmer for 10 - 15 mins. Serve with 4 tbsp soya plant-based yogurt alternative and wholegrain rice.



BAKED RATATOUILLE
WITH FLAGEOLET BEANS
AND QUORN FILLET

Serves 2

Add 400ml passata to a roasting tin. Arrange ¼ sliced onion, ½ sliced yellow pepper, 1 sliced courgette, ½ sliced aubergine, 400g can flageolet beans (rinsed and drained), and 1 garlic clove (thinly sliced) on top, drizzle 1 tbsp olive oil over the top, season with freshly ground pepper, cover with foil then bake in the oven at 200 C/ fan 180/ gas mark 6 for 40 mins. Remove from the oven and nestle 2 Quorn Fillets in the mix. re-cover with foil and place back in the oven for another 20 mins. Serve with focaccia bread



QUORN CHILLI

Serves 2

Fry 1 finely chopped onion in 1 tbsp oil for 3 mins, add a crushed garlic clove, 1 tsp chilli puree, ½ tsp smoked paprika and cook for 2 mins. Add ½ a 400g can red kidney beans in chilli sauce and 150g Quorn Mince, 1½ tbsp tomato puree and 100ml reduced salt vegetable stock, simmer 10 mins. Serve with baked potatoes and soya plain or Greek-style alternative to yogurt.



VIBRANT VEGETABLE AND TOFU STIR FRY WITH CASHEWS

Serves 2

Heat 1 tbsp olive oil in a wok then fry 2 spring onions (sliced), 1 garlic clove (sliced), ginger (finely chopped), ½ red pepper (chopped), 1 carrot (cut into thin strips), 1 courgette (thinly sliced) and a handful of pak choi or green cabbage for 4 – 5 mins. Add 1 tbsp soy sauce, a little water, 200g marinated tofu pieces, 250g cooked noodles and a handful of cashew nuts. Continue cooking for a further 2 mins then serve.



This guidance was kindly sponsored by an education grant from Alpro & Quorn. Alpro soya products and Quorn Mince, Pieces and Fillets are low in saturated fat and a source of protein. Reducing consumption of saturated fat, as part of a varied, balanced diet and lifestyle, contributes to the maintenance of normal blood cholesterol levels. Protein, as part of a varied balanced diet and lifestyle, contributes to a growth in and to the maintenance of muscle mass.



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- 7. Barley beta-glucan, as part of a varied balanced diet and lifestyle, has been shown to lower blood cholesterol. High cholesterol is a risk factor in the development of coronary heart disease



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