

The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training  
Foreign Affairs Oral History Program  
Fulbright Stories Project

**BRYCE MICHAEL MOULTON**

*Interviewed by: Fran Leskovar  
Initial interview date: October 26, 2025  
Copyright 2026 ADST*

**INTERVIEW**

*Q: All right, today is October 26, 2025 and this is a Fulbright interview. Can you state your name for the record and just spell it out for me.*

MOULTON: Hi, my name is Bryce Moulton, B, R, Y, C, E, M, O, U, L, T, O, N.

*Q: Perfect. Can you tell me a little bit about yourself? Where'd you grow up?*

MOULTON: Yeah! I grew up in Natchitoches, Louisiana, outside of the town limits there. So that was a really interesting experience going from a rural area to a city when I was able to get into Tulane University in New Orleans. I happily stuck around Louisiana for that experience. I went to Tulane for my undergraduate and graduate programs. And from there, I went directly from graduate school into my Fulbright.

*Q: How did you get interested in a Fulbright program, and what sparked the interest?*

MOULTON: Well, growing up as someone in a very rural area, I didn't know that there were programs like this available to students, to people in general, that was just completely outside of my wheelhouse. But it was actually because of my mom, Dr Patrice Moulton, who is now another Fulbrighter that I learned that it was even an option for someone like us. She had someone recommend it to her, and she applied, kind of on a whim, to say, "oh, I don't think I'll get it," but she did, and seeing how that experience of being a Fulbright specialist altered her life really opened my eyes to the opportunities that there are through these exchange programs, not just for the work that we do abroad, but also for what it does when we come back, because it changed not just my mom's life, but the whole family's. We just started looking at things a lot differently. A lot more in the world seemed accessible.

*Q: Did you study abroad during your undergrad?*

MOULTON: I did. So while I was from a rural area, I feel very blessed that my parents had me moving around a lot as a kid. Whenever they'd go to conferences, because they worked for the local university in town, they would bring me along. The first time I was

on a plane, I was six months old to go and see my dad's family in New York state. So I had been moving around. I felt very comfortable in that space. Including international travel to Nepal for work with charity with Empower Nepali Girls. But still the thought of living and working abroad long term was a wild one to me, but then, when I got to Tulane University, that opened a few more opportunities to my eyes. I was able to do my capstone research project in Ecuador. I was working with sand flies and mosquitoes with leishmaniasis presence there on a reserve out in the Choco Rain Forest. And then for my Graduate degree, I did my master's thesis in tropical medicine and infectious disease. I did my thesis in Sierra Leone, and so I was over there for quite a while partnering with a number of universities working with ticks.

*Q: Can you tell me a little bit about your Fulbright program, and what did you do during that program?*

MOULTON: I was a Fulbright ETA (English Teaching Assistant). I had known that I wanted to be an ETA, especially so during the times going into undergraduate, because I was in high school and my mom had had her Fulbright experience, and put the program on my radar. I started getting the certification from the university and the endorsement for teaching English as a second language to prepare. I also ended up during Covid, getting my CELTA from Cambridge University. Then I applied and I was finally an ETA. The reason that I wanted to do education specifically is because my family has been a part of a charity for a long time with Nepal for empowering young women and helping them gain access to education on all levels. So I knew the impact that it could have in students' individual lives, and for the country, and it was something that I had been involved in for a while firsthand. So I knew that some of the connections I could have might be useful in that scene. And I went for it from there.

*Q: Walking through your Fulbright experience, what did you learn, and what were some of the lessons learned, I guess from the process?*

MOULTON: Yeah, lessons learned. I was at Shree Bishwo Rastriya school in Kirtipur, there within the Kathmandu Valley. I was blown away at how open and accepting everyone in that community was and to be able to learn, to work in a community like that, from an education standpoint was amazing to see the connections between classroom and the lives touched. Also on the government level, of how in such a community driven culture, you could go around with projects from almost any level and have rippling effects very quickly. I think one of the most meaningful moments that I had was just a random day after teaching my eighth grade class, I was packing up papers, and a student had come up to me and started asking a number of questions about a public health project I had been doing at the school. I would implement them in as English teaching lessons about topics that I saw there was a need for and this one was on burn first aid. And he just started going really in depth. He had, like, a list of questions that he was asking me. I asked, "Are you interested in becoming a doctor? Why is there such excitement about this one for you?", because I was curious. He said, "Oh, these aren't my questions. These are my mom's questions and my little brother's questions." And I recognized he was going home and taking these lessons and teaching it and disseminating

the information, not just to him. It wasn't an impact solely in the classroom. It was going throughout the community. And so I started doing as homework assignments when I recognized they were doing it anyways, to take these lessons on public health topics and bring it out into the community, through them, to teach their family so they have the repetition on it, and they get to learn it better, but also that the information gets spread through these means, and that's not something I had thought of doing previously with any of my projects, and something that I try and implement continually these days as I go forward.

*Q: Why do you think Fulbright matters to America, for American diplomacy, American interests abroad, but also for understanding who we are as a country.*

MOULTON: I think that the more chances you get to have positive experiences between people, the more understanding there will ultimately be. The outlook that people have of the US, especially in Nepal, is very positive, but I think a lot of that is because a lot of the interactions we have are very positive. We're going over, we're helping. They come over to university and they see how that can positively change lives, and we learn so much from them, as they do from us. We're on the ground doing diplomacy with stakeholders from a young age. I mentored the next cohort of community leaders, voters, families, real people who touched my life and hopefully I had some positive trace in theirs as well. My Nepali colleagues are still very closely in touch with me and even pass along notes from the students, "can you teach me more about the US?", they want to learn, there is this desire for connection, and we need to have these programs so that that desire can be met in meaningful ways that aren't just brief touches, but impacts on lives over a longer period of time.

*Q: What advice would you have for an American student that is considering a Fulbright?*

MOULTON: Just go for it. I think there's so many people like I was at the time that thought, oh, well, that wouldn't be for me. That's for someone impressive, that's for someone from a different set of circumstances, etc. You never know if you don't try for it, so just say yes to yourself and to the process and go for it. If you don't get it your first time, try again. This is not a process that demonizes multiple attempts. In fact, it really rewards it. It shows that you have that commitment. Continue building your investment in this group, and it will return it 100 times fold. It's also a way to not just have a job and a wonderful experience for the period of a Fulbright grant, it's a way to enter a community afterwards that I've seen, and that sounds cliché, but it really is an amazing group of people to be involved with after you get back home. I'm still pretty freshly back, and I've gotten involved and it's allowed me to meet just this wonderful host of people. They've helped me with finding work. They've helped me with opening my eyes to other opportunities that I never knew were there, much like the first time that my family had gotten involved. And so, it's just an amazing life choice that can change the trajectory of not just you, but people in your community, people around you, those that you affect.

*Q: Perfect. Is there anything else you would like to share, talk about. Final word, if you want.*

MOULTON: Yeah, the final word. I would say that Fulbright is amazing because it lets you have these experiences that can change your life, but you don't have to go halfway around the world for a life changing experience. Opening yourself up to what is around you, saying yes in your communities, and just saying yes when opportunities arise that you might not normally go for is a life changing outlook that Fulbright has taught me, and that I think should be applied for everyone. Thank you.

*Q: Perfect. All right, we're going to stop right here.*

*End of interview*