As vice provost and the senior international officer, Reitumetse Obakeng Mabokela cultivates relationships with institutions around the world while bringing together the university’s vast on-campus international presence. Illinois International refers to the multifaceted nature of internationalization at Illinois and encompasses a range of international activities, assets, and linkages. The University of Illinois is a recognized leader in international education, research and engagement. With a strong commitment to international initiatives both at the campus level and within individual colleges, internationalization is increasingly embedded in all aspects of academic life on campus.

Mabokela was named the Vice Provost for International Affairs and Global Strategies and Professor in the College of Education effective January 2015. Prior to joining the University of Illinois, Mabokela was the Assistant Dean for International Studies in the College of Education and Professor of Higher Education at Michigan State University. Originally from South Africa, she received her BA in Economics from Ohio Wesleyan University, magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. She graduated with a Master’s in Labor and Industrial Relations and Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies, both from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
• Open Doors ranks Illinois #3 (first among publics) in international students in 2013-14
• Offers language instructions in a variety of “Less Commonly Taught Languages,” including Arabic, Chinese, Polish, Hindi, Português, Swahili, and many more
• Six Department of Education Title VI National Resource Centers: African Studies, East Asian and Pacific Studies, European Union Center; Global Studies; Latin American and Caribbean Studies; and a Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center
• 23rd in world reputation in 2014 by Times of London
• International and Area Studies Library consisting of more than 2 million volumes in over 150 languages

AWARDS AND PARTNERSHIPS
• 500+ formal agreements with other educational institutions to support research and students in more than 50 countries
• For the sixth consecutive year, the Illinois was named a U.S. Fulbright Scholar “Top Producer” for the 2015-16 academic year, with fifteen students winning Fulbright awards
• The Illinois Shanghai Office opened in 2013 and continues to foster exceptional collaboration among Illinois’ students and colleagues in China
• Strong strategic partnerships with prestigious research universities in Sweden (INSPIRE–KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm University, and Karolinska Institute) and the UK (BRIDGE–University of Birmingham); BRIDGE was awarded the 2016 Andrew Heiskell Award for International Partnerships by the Institute for International Education (IIE)

SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDY ABROAD
• The U of I has more than 200 study abroad programs in over 60 countries
• The Illinois campus provides over $850,000 in financial support annually for students studying abroad
• Study abroad scholarship recipients traveled around the globe, with the most students traveling to Spain, Italy, Sweden, China, South Africa, Costa Rica, Australia, and Jordan
• Currently ranked 9th in the nation in students studying abroad, according to the Open Doors report, with more than 2,400 studying abroad in 2013-14
• Illinois International offered 26 different scholarship opportunities in 2014, with 74 students awarded scholarships to study abroad