Here are some important NRSA fellowships rules that students need to be aware of.

- Students must enroll full time every term, including summer. Keep this in mind especially summer between M-1 and M-2. If you are defending then, you have no problems as you must enroll in the term in which you defend. If you defend before summer, simply wait to deposit until summer or later. You may continue to enroll in thesis credits until you deposit and you may deposit up to a year after defending without issue.
- Students must submit a renewal document to the Fellowship Office each year or they will not process your waivers and stipend. Just so you know...
- The fellowship reduces your eligibility for student loans by the amount of your stipend. Students may not qualify for any student loans while on the NRSA as the stipend is generally greater than the living expenses allowed for student aid. Talk to Jim Hall if you think you will be short.
- The business office/grant management office in your graduate program (e.g. MCB, SCS) processes the payment of your health insurance and other items that come out of your supplies account.
- The NRSA requires full-time effort on your MD/PhD studies. Students may not hold a TA or hourly appointment while on the NRSA unless they have a one-time exception granted by the Fellowship Office. On occasion students have held a short TA in order to fulfill graduate requirements or because the position was especially pertinent. Nora has been very good at this with her grad college experience.
- On the topic of MD/PhD, there are program directors at the NIH who are not familiar with the individual MD/PhD fellowships. Students have spoken with directors to state, "We do not pay for med school, so you cannot have an NRSA." When communicating with the NIH, (e.g. on your annual progress reports) state you are an MD/PhD student, your MD/PhD studies are progressing, etc... even after you report that you have defended the PhD.
- The business office/grant management office in your graduate program (e.g. MCB, SCS) will continue to process your NRSA even after you finish the PhD, but we sometimes have to remind them of this.